N O T I C E

Effective 1 April, the Iran and South Asia sections of the FBIS Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be incorporated into a new South Asia DAILY REPORT. The Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be renamed Middle East & Africa and will include material on Sub-Saharan Africa effective the same date.

Most Government subscribers will automatically receive both books. Those who prefer to receive only one book, should contact their distribution control office or FBIS, (Area Code 703 527-2368). NTIS subscribers who wish to receive both reports at no extra charge should call NTIS immediately, (Area Code 703 557-4630).

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 062 *28 March 1980*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

INA Reports on People's Conference Session in Baghdad A 1
Saddam Husayn Addresses Pan-Arab People's Conference A 2
'Arafat: Diplomatic Activity Part of Palestinian 'Backcloth' [Paris L'ACTION 23 Mar] A 3
VOP: Mr 'Arafat Meets With USSR Ambassador in Beirut [28 Mar] A 5
Fatah's Salah Khalaf Holds Press Conference in Manama A 6
Khalaf Denies PLO Readiness to Negotiate With Israel A 7
PLO Spokesman: EC Might Help Promote Mideast Peace A 7
PLO 'Rejects Any Conditions' for 'Arafat Visit to France [Kuwait AL-WATAN 23 Mar] A 9
PLO Opposes Reopening of Gaza Bank Falastin A 9
Palestine National Council Speaker on Indian Support for PLO A 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Fatah's Abu Iyad 26 March C 1
Departure 27 March C 1

KUWAIT

Spokesman Announces Iranian Clarification of Statement C 1

PDRY

Statement Denies Existence of Soviet Bases in Aden C 2
Prime Minister Receives Soviet Parliamentary Delegation C 2
Meeting With Chairman Isma'il C 3
YSP Official Meets Soviet Economic Adviser C 3
Official Sees Visiting Palestinian Leader C 4
Isma'il Greets Hungary's Kadar, MSZMP Congress C 4
Communique on Visit of Portuguese Communist Leader C 5

SAUDI ARABIA

Editorial Calls for Gulf Collaboration on Defense Issues ['UKAZ 18 Mar] C 6
Algeria's Bendjedid Arrives 27 March, Meets King Khalid C 6
Talks Begin in Riyadh C 7

UAE

Minister Receives Message From Saudi Foreign Minister C 7
Prime Minister Receives Eritrean Leader 26 March C 7

EGYPT

Linowitz Meets Burg, Khalil, Butrus D 1
Hold Press Conference D 2
Israeli Delegation Arrives in Alexandria D 3
Spokesman's Statement D 3

Khalil Meets With Egyptian Autonomy Delegation D 4
Heads of Delegations Begin Meetings 27 Mar D 4
Security Issue D 4
Meeting Ends D 4
Statements Made D 5
Khalil: Main Issues To Be Discussed in Washington D 5
Khalil: Legal, Economic Committees Should Meet At Once D 6
President as-Sadat Receives Linowitz 28 Mar D 7
Linowitz Departure D 7

IRAQ

Algerian President Leaves Baghdad 27 March E 1
Cuban Minister Tours Construction Projects [Havana] E 1

JORDAN

AD-DUSTUR Discusses Autonomy Talks in Alexandria F 1

LEBANON

Military Delegation Returns From Damascus [VOL] G 1
President Sarkis Receives Sham'un, Al-Jumayyil G 1
Voice of Lebanon: Fatah Occupies Mountain in South G 1

SYRIA

Lebanese Paper: USSR Reportedly Supplies MiGs, Radar H 1
Al-Asad, Hawatimah Discuss Developments in Arab Region H 1
President al-Asad Receives WFTU President H 1
WFTU Issues Statement H 2
Syrian Communist Official Attacks Al-Asad Regime H 2
Ba'th Official Receives Eritrean Front Leader H 3
Al-Asad Receives Indian Air Force Commander H 4

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid To Visit PDRY 28 March I 1

LIBYA

LE MONDE: Air Force Fires on French Patrol Plans [Paris 27 Mar] I 1
'Mistakenly' Harrassed I 2
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message from Brezhnev I 2
Iran's Khalkhali Meets With Congress Secretaries I 2
Six FRG Geologists Detained Near Egyptian Border I 3
Jallud Opens Fifth Conference Against Oil Monopolies I 3

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Bouabid Holds Talks With PRC Delegation I 6
Hassan Holds Talks in France on Middle East Situation I 7
[cross-reference]

SUDAN

Ummah Party Chief Views USSR Action in Afghanistan I 7
[Kuwait AL-WATAN 23 Mar]

TUNISIA

Court Sentences 15 To Death for Qafsah Aggression I 8
Defense Minister Receives Soviet Admiral Novikov I 8
Gambian President Departs After Official Talks I 8
PRC Delegation in Tunis for Cooperation Talks I 8
Delegation Leaves I 9
Remarks Reported I 10

ISRAEL

Begin Interviewed on Current Political Issue N 1
Linowitz Asks Israel to 'Start Talking Business' N 13
Fighting Reported in Northeast Iran N 14
Defense Minister Weizman Meets U.S. Air Force General N 14
Gaza Terrorists, Tel Aviv Youth Cooperate N 14
Military Government Places Roadblocks on Hebron Road N 14
Arab Mayors To Take Action Against Cabinet Decision on Hebron N 15
West Bank Meeting Ends in Al-Birah N 15

IRAN

[For material on Iran normally appearing in this DAILY REPORT see the supplement to the 28 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, No 062, Supplement 074]

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Karachi Radio: More Soviet Troops, Equipment to Qandahar S 1
Rights Observer Notes USSR Using Toxins [LE MONDE 27 Mar] S 1
Rebels Report Mutinies at Kabul Garrison S 2
Protests Intensifying Against Kabul Regime S 2
American Robert Lee Appears on Kabul TV
Karmal Reportedly Solicits PLO Mediation With Iran S 3
Keshtmand Leads Delegation on Visit to Czechoslovakia S 4
[cross-reference]
Correction to Article on Trade Talks With Soviets S 4

INDIA

PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat Arrives 28 Mar S 4
'Red Carpet' Welcome S 4
Arrival Statement S 5
Treated as Head of Government S 5
Foreign Minister Hosts Banquet for Ramphal S 5
Rao Toast to Secretary General S 6
Rao Toast to Bulgaria's Mladenov at 26 Mar Dinner S 7
Talks With Commerce Minister S 8
Rao Reiterates Opposition to Diego Garcia Base S 8
Protest Lodged Against Thai-Bangladesh Fishing Agreement S 9
Prime Minister Gandhi on Nuclear Fuel Supply From U.S. S 9
Political Unrest Continues in Northeast S 9
Arrest of Assam Demonstrators S 9
Parliament Briefed on Mizoram Situation S 10
STATESMAN on Naga Rebel Movement S 10
Meithi Insurgents Accused of Slaying S 11
Meithi Faction Opposes Talks S 11
Gandhi Gains Approval For Dissolving Legislative Assemblies S 11

Lawyers Boycott Courts in Madhya Pradesh S 12
Soviet Science-Technology Delegation Arrives in New Delhi S 12

NEPAL

Nationwide Bus, Teachers Strikes Continue S 12

PAKISTAN

Karachi Radio Comments on Karmal Overture S 13
Spokesman on Reported 'Package Deal' From India on Afghanistan S 14
Haq Speaks to Cadets on Strengthening National Defense S 15
Greets Bangladesh National Day S 15
U.S. Human Rights Official Visits Afghan Refugee Camp S 16
FRG Official Visits Refugee Camp S 16
EXPRESS: Bhutto Followers To Form Government in Exile S 16
[Delhi 21 Mar]
DAWN Discusses PRC Military Delegation's Visit [22 Mar] S 17

INA REPORTS ON PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE SESSION IN BAGHDAD

JN271217 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 March--The fourth session of the Pan-Arab People's Conference has begun in the hall of the Al-Mansur Hotel, chaired by Ahmad Ben Salah, from the Tunisian Popular Unity Movement. In an opening speech, Ben Salah stressed the need to emerge with clear recommendations and resolutions, which serve the Arab nation's issues and its desires for a prosperous future.

(?Lami' al-Hur), representative of the Nasirite Popular Organization General Secretariat in Lebanon, said that the Pan-Arab Charter expresses the will of the Arab masses from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf. He called for the formation of a body to follow up on implementation of the conference resolutions, which aim at mobilizing Arab potentials in serving the Arab nation's crucial issues. He also called for the establishment of economic relations among all Arab countries. He said that the conspiracy in Lebanon is not only targeted against Lebanon's unity and Arabism but is also intended to crush the nationalist regimes and movements in the Arab homeland.

Dr Mustafa al-Kutayri, representative of the Accountancy Experts Organization in fraternal Morocco, spoke about the national declaration, calling for the establishment of new and developing economic relations among the Arab countries, in order to achieve their liberation within the framework of the Arab nation's social and economic development strategy.

Ibrahim 'Abdallah Muhammad, representative of the Western Somalia Liberation Front, called for protests against the Ethiopian regime's terrorist practices and its war of annihilation against Western Somalia and its people, who are struggling for liberty and self-determination. He also called upon the Arab governments and popular and vocational organizations to extend urgent aid to the Western Somalia revolutionaries and to consider the Western Somalia people's issue as an indivisible part of the national liberation cause. He also called upon them to condemn foreign intervention and to demand the withdrawal of foreign forces from Western Somalia.

Kazazi Musa, representative of the Moroccan Youth for Progress and Socialism, said that President Saddam Husayn's national declaration has come to sound the alarm and to serve as a reminder of the dangers surrounding the Arab nation in these difficult circumstances. He called for resolutions that reflect the level of the battle that the Arab nation is waging against its enemies. He affirmed that As-Sadat's treason, which was carried out under U.S. auspices would not have been done so easily had it not been for the total absence of a unified Arab strategy against Zionism and imperialism and for the divisions and conflicts among the fraternal Arab countries.

Sayf ad-Dawlah, from the Egyptian Nationalist Movement, stated that the Arab masses should participate more widely in shouldering their responsibilities within the context of President Saddam Husayn's national declaration. He also affirmed the Egyptian masses' ability to raise the banner of Arabism in Egypt and to restore it to the Arab fold.

Hashimi al-Ghaylali, from the Moroccan Independence Party, said that President Saddam Husayn's national declaration is the alternative to the conflicts and designs against the Arab nation's independence. It is a true expression of the Arab nation's will for liberation and emancipation.

Sa'd Zaghlul Fu'ad, from the Egyptian Nationalist Movement, affirmed that freedom and democracy are the shortest road to realizing the Arab masses' objectives and aspirations. He called for joint Arab struggle against the imperialist and Zionist machinations against the Arab homeland and for the liberation of Arab Egypt from agent As-Sadat's regime.

SADDAM HUSAYN ADDRESSES PAN-ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

JN272043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 March--President Saddam Husayn this afternoon attended part of the fifth session of the Pan-Arab People's conference.

President Saddam Husayn delivered an important comprehensive speech at which he dealt with current pan-Arab issues, ways to consolidate the Arab struggle against Zionism and imperialism and the Arab nation's stand toward the superpowers' conflicts.

In his speech, President Saddam Husayn said that subservience has no degrees and that there is no difference between one foreigner and another.

He said that any regime or movement that accepts to be subservient to this or that foreigner will accept to be so to all foreigners. His excellency pointed out that this image of subservience is not different from that of the traitors during the stage of the nation's recession.

President Saddam Husayn said that the national declaration is not directed against this or that side. We would have said so with honor and without fear should we believe this, he added.

President Saddam Husayn said pan-Arab interests dictated the national declaration. The Arab nation will need this charter as a working program for several years to come.

His excellency then discussed Iraq's relations with the two superpowers. He said there are two powers with international influence: one is the Soviet Union and the other is the United States. We do not want to harm either side.

He said: Iraq has no relations with the United States and we consider it an enemy of the Arab nation and of Iraq. We deal with the United States accordingly, he said; we have never shed tears or begged the United States to send to us its representatives as the others do. On the contrary, the United States tries two to ten times every year and with all means to restore our relations with it, but we refuse.

President Saddam Husayn explained: We do so not because we fear anyone but out of our love for the Arab people and out of our faith in our principles, not our own principles but those of all the Arabs.

He said: We believe that we should be noble and free in our homeland and we should fight against those who try to usurp any part of our land and try to displace our people. This is what the United States is doing now.

President Saddam Husayn said: The United States is occupying our land because Israel is occupying Palestine with U.S. help. We will continue to view the United States as our enemy so long as this occupation continues.

Discussing Iraq's relations with the Soviet Union, his excellency said that the Soviet Union is the other power which is looking for influence and it acts accordingly. We have relations with the Soviet Union and we call it a friend. We will continue to do so as long as we believe that these relations serve the Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn said this friendship is proceeding in accordance with international calculations. There are exchanges of interests and interaction of strategies concerning this problem or that. Everyone of us believes that this relationship serves our peoples.

President Saddam Husayn explained that the relations with the Soviet Union are not relations of subservience. He added: When we receive a report that the Soviet Union is present on any part of Arab land which involved subservience, we react to it in the same way we do when we receive a report on the U.S. presence on any Arab land with a subservient nature.

His excellency said that this stand is not new for Iraq. He pointed out that in 1974, he told journalists that if the Soviet Union, with whom Iraq has relations of friendship, occupies any part of Saudi Arabia, the Iraqi Army would fight the Soviet Union before the Saudi Army did so.

President Saddam Husayn asserted that this principled stand defines Iraq's policy and its views regarding foreigners. We have not changed and we are still committed to our principles. We will fight the foreigner regardless of how we view this regime or this ruler and regardless of our relations with this foreigner or that.

President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq declared its frank stand rejecting foreign intervention at a time when it was waging a violent battle against the shah's regime and the agents, during which Iraq offered well over 60,000 dead and wounded.

President Saddam Husayn said: When we declared our stand, we did not fear the anger of the Soviet Union, which was our sole arms source.

His excellency asserted that the national charter is not aimed at isolating Iraq from the Arab nation. When we formulated its provisions, we considered the Arab homeland's borders, not Iraq's border, as our borders.

President Saddam Husayn asserted that the revolution in Iraq is one for the Arabs in the service of the Arabs. It is not an Iraqi revolution; it is a revolution in your service and against the foreigner when he usurps the land and intimidates the Arab people in any part of the homeland.

'ARAFAT: DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY PART OF PALESTINIAN 'BACKCLOTH'

LD280921 Tunis L'ACTION in French 23 Mar 80 p 14 LD

[TAP interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut: "Yasir 'Arafat Reaffirms his Respect and Esteem for President Bourguiba and the Tunisian People"--date not specified]

[Excerpt] By mentioning the diplomatic success achieved by the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat to some extent answers observers who wonder whether "the PLO is not now giving priority to diplomatic action at the expense of strengthening the armed struggle."

When we put this question to him, 'Arafat replied: First, I would like to stress the importance of political and diplomatic action so that our revolution which, like any other revolution, is an indivisible whole, is not misled into violence for its own sake. The gun alone is not enough. I will never accept that the image of our revolution should be that of violence for its own sake.

Our revolution is simultaneously the fighter's gun, the artist's brush, the surgeon's knife, the writer's pen, the workers' machine, the farmer's spade and the seamstress' needle. It is also the diplomat's activities. All that makes up the backcloth on which our authentic revolution is woven. Furthermore, it is no coincidence that our political cadres in France, Britain, Italy and Cyprus are targets for the enemies of our cause.

If this diplomatic work did not worry our adversaries, they would not have assassinated all the cadres that the revolution has lost.

Furthermore the task carried out by our political cadres is not only useful and necessary but is as dangerous and risky as the armed struggle, because it makes them targets which our enemies try to eliminate at any time and in any place.

However, the armed struggle has always been an essential element of our revolution. In this connection I would like to point out that, when the Lebanese and Palestinian national forces were faced with the Israeli invasion, our guerrillas managed to hold back one-third of the Israeli Army engaged in southern Lebanon and force the enemy to accept a cease-fire. That was an unprecedented event in the history of the Israeli-Arab conflict. ['Arafat ends]

Recent developments on the Palestinian question illustrate the soundness of the PLO chairman's view that the Palestinian revolution is "an indivisible whole."

Moreover it was on this dialectical relationship between diplomacy and the armed struggle that President Bourguiba based his national liberation strategy.

Indeed, the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination by the countries represented by the Western envoy following President Giscard d'Estaing's recent trip to the Middle East and the granting of official diplomatic status to the PLO representative in Vienna constitute a considerable victory on the path which necessarily leads to the creation of a Palestinian state.

One Nation, One Struggle

It was in the broader context of the whole Arab nation's struggle and of the challenges it has to meet that the Palestinian leader tried throughout the interview to place the national liberation struggle which he leads.

"In the Eighties we will step up our efforts to consolidate the unity of the Arab front," he told us, stressing in this connection the need to use all our nation's potential, including "oil and petrodollars."

In this connection 'Arafat noted that the United States is now using the grain weapon in its quarrel with Moscow over Central Asia.

"Our people have the right to defend themselves and to place all their human and other resources at the service of their noble ideals, the PLO chairman added, before explaining.

Lebanon is the next country after Palestine on which the Zionist dream is based. Moreover, the Israeli leaders who consider it the weakest and most vulnerable link in the chain make no secret of their claims to Mount Hermon and the Litani River. Lebanon's fight is our fight."

In Line With the Tunis Summit Resolutions

In Yasir 'Arafat's view there is not doubt that the only sound development in Lebanese-Palestinian relations is for them to be consolidated with a view to facing the permanent Israeli aggressions against the south of the country. In this connection he pointed out with great satisfaction that the Tunis Arab summit was able to reach agreement on a joint Arab working document on these two aspects of the question. "The Tunis summit," he added, "was a victory in that it brought together all the Arab countries, unlike the Baghdad summit from which several countries were absent. All Arab countries without exception were in Tunis, defying the predictions of those who wagered that it would be impossible to achieve Arab unanimity in Egypt's absence [sentence as published]. In addition, it is important to point out that, for the first time in an Arab summit, the Tunis summmt affirmed that continuation of the current U.S. policy in the Middle East would damage that country's relations and interests in the Arab world. This was the first time that an Arab summit had raised this problem and warned the United States.

Changes Giving Rise to Optimism

For 'Arafat the Iranian revolution is of fundamental importance and great significance and is likely to change the international economic situation and hence the balance of forces in the world. "It will certainly affect the situation in the Middle East and the attitude of the West, especially the United States, to us", he stressed, affirming that the Palestinian question is one of the most important elements of dynamism in the Muslim nation's present revival.

"We must not forget," he added, "that Jerusalem contains Islam's third-most-holy place."

The Palestinian State

'Arafat then explained the PLO's medium-term and long-term objectives and recalled that, in his capacity as PLO chairman elected by the Palestine National Council, he has to implement the resolutions taken by that council, which has several times reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state on any part of the national territory liberated from Zionist occupation.

VOP: MR 'ARAFAT MEETS WITH USSR AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

NC280730 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 28 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Yesterday at noon, brother Abu 'Ammar met with the USSR ambassador in Lebanon, Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov.

Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting current developments in the region, particularly the situation in southern Lebanon, were discussed.

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN MANAMA

JN262122 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2040 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Manama, 26 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah's Central Committee member, has stressed that despite all the difficulties facing them the Arab citizens in the occupied territories have been able to stand in the face of the Zionist occupation and to foil all the Camp David initiatives on self-rule.

He said that the self-rule is a failure because it does not give the Palestinian people their right to self-determination or their sovereignty over their territory. It also means, he said, that about 2 and 1/2 million Palestinians who are living outside Palestine are not included in such a rule.

In a press conference he held in Manama this evening, Abu Iyad said that his current tour of Arab states aims at putting the Arab brothers in the picture of the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories in particular, and the Arab people's steadfastness there, the developments in the Palestine issue and the situation in Lebanon in general.

Abu Iyad called on the Arab states to end their peripheral differences as soon as possible for the sake of the Palestinian cause. He also called for the establishment of a military, political and economic unity and the opening of the northern-eastern front for fedayeen action in order to repulse any possible Israeli aggression against the Arab territories.

He also called on the Arab oil-producing states to reduce their oil production in the current stage so that the U.S. citizen will understand that the Arabs have a cause and so the Western citizen will feel that there is Arab pressure to explain the Palestinian cause; namely, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Abu Iyad added that all the Arab states' officials he met have showed full understanding and support for current Palestinian issues.

In reply to a question on coordination between Jordan and the PLO toward the Arab citizens' steadfastness in the occupied territories, he said there is coordination in the foreign political field, that dialog has largely succeeded and that there are some pending issues to be solved.

Abu Iyad warned that the events to which Syria is currently being exposed are so serious that they threaten all the Arab states. He added that if Syria is divided into statelets, as is sought by some quarters, particularly the Camp David partners, Syria will witness a distructive civil war whose results cannot be foretold.

The Palestinian official welcomed the recent French stand toward the Palestinian cause and said it represents an advanced step in the deadlock imposed by the United States. He said that the Palestinian resistance does not call for destroying Israel, but calls for a presence for the Palestinians in an independent state on any part of Palestinian soil. He added that the resistance welcomes any European initiative that takes into consideration the Palestinian people's rights.

The Palestinian official stressed the resistance's commitment not to expose southern Lebanon to any Israeli attack because Lebanon should not bear the burdens of the battle. He said that in view of the savage Israeli shelling of innocent citizens in the region, the Palestinian fedayeen find themselves forced to reply by shelling the Israeli settlements in northern Palestine with the aim of raising the spirits of the people in the south.

KHALAF DENIES PLO READINESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL

JN271108 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 March--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has denied a statement by former FRG Chancellor Willy Brandt that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed readiness to negotiate with Israel.

In a statement published by the newspaper AL-FAJR in Abu Dhabi today, Abu Iyad said that although no denial of this statement has been announced, I believe that Willy Brandt did not accurately understand what was discussed during 'Arafat's talks with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Abu Iyad affirmed that 'Arafat has never made a statement regarding Israel's recognition because the Palestinians will never cast that card.

Abu Iyad said that the purpose of his current Arab tour is to discuss a Palestinian plan to be submitted to the Arab League concerning the issuance of new documents and passports for Palestinians.

Abu Iyad said that the YAR, the PDRY, Syria, Algeria, Iraq and Tunisia have agreed to issue these documents. It was also agreed that the word "refugee" will not appear in them.

PLO SPOKESMAN: EC MIGHT HELP PROMOTE MIDEAST PEACE

DW280956 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German to East and West Germany 0511 GMT 27 Mar 80 DW

[Excerpts from Heribert Schwan interview in Bonn with Abdallah al-Ifranji, PLO representative in the Bonn bureau of the Arab League--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Do you also expect early diplomatic recognition by the countries of the European Community?

[Answer] We have already been recognized by many EC states. We have not yet reached the degree of [recognition] that Austria, and now India, have achieved, but it is a well-known fact that the PLO will soon have diplomatic recognition from all countries of the world, shortly.

[Question] But Bonn still has some specific reservations.

[Answer] In the meantime Bonn's attitude has developed very well, keeping in mind that the FRG has recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination since 1974, and that the latest statements by Genscher more or less show more clearly that the FRG has taken this fact into consideration.

[Question] But you do keep the special German-Israeli relations in mind? Surely, France, Great Britain and the Benelux countries can make foreign policy decisions that are different than Bonn's.

[Answer] Yes, of course. We keep that in mind. Yet the question involved is whether the Palestinians have rights or not, and if the Palestinians have a right, then this right must be supported. Besides, the Germans still play a great role among the EC states, and they should do so also in the Middle East.

[Question] To an increasing extent an EC mediation action for the Middle East is taking shape in the event that the current Israeli-Egyptian autonomy talks fail. At least this seems to be the firm will of the European Community. Do you have any idea at all about what the EC could do anyway?

[Answer] I think that these talks will fail because they excluded the Palestinians from the outset. Time and again I have said that the Middle East is a neighbor of the EC states. The EC states are bound to play a role because peace there is also peace for the EC states, so that the EC states will perhaps help achieve another declaration by the UN Security Council and will then no longer remain as indifferent in this region anymore. What I mean to say is that they might perhaps help form an international body to be of help with regard to the problem in the Middle East or to move the process of peace forward.

[Question] Still, Israeli Prime Minister Begin as late as yesterday termed the activities of the EC highly negative and a harmful development. Begin emphasized that Israel will not consent to the right of self-determination by the Palestinians nor allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, so there seems to be a host of problems left. To that extent it seems as though an EC initiative in this direction will hardly reap success.

[Answer] I think Begin has become incapable of implementing his policy in Israel, and it will probably not take long before he is replaced. That is the first point. The second point is that every liberation movement has met with resistance. Look at the history of Vietnam, the history of Algeria and so on and so forth. First one doggedly rejected it, but later on one had to give in. The fact that we are a nation of 4 million people cannot be ignored or denied, even if one doggedly insists on denying this fact.

[Question] A PLO delegation will visit the European countries in the near future. The invitation was initiated by the European Council. The PLO body will also visit the FRG among others. Who will be your discussion partner in Bonn?

[Answer] The German parliamentarians naturally, that is, every German politician who shows preparedness. In the meantime there are many German politicians whose names I do not want to mention, but who would have such talks with the Palestinian parliamentarians.

[Question] Are there also top echelon German politicians among them? I will mention a few names: Brandt, Genscher, Kohl?

[Answer] I hope we will win over as many people as possible for having talks with them. It has been said: We want to hear all those involved, but up to now everybody has been heard officially but the Palestinians. We believe it would be good to hear the standpoint of the Palestinians directly from them and not from a third party.

[Question] Are you also trying to establish contacts with government representatives?

[Answer] Let us leave that question open. I think that is a problem which ought to be better answered by the government itself. If it is prepared, we will be glad to talk to it.

[Question] Are there contacts with the CDU/CSU opposition?

[Answer] Yes, we have always considered Germany as a whole, and if we want to have talks, we want to have talks with all existing parties.

[Question] Have efforts ever been made to establish contacts between the CSU and the PLO as was recently stated by a big German news magazine?

[Answer] I would put it as follows: During their visits to the Arab area CSU politicians have also been confronted with the problem of the Palestinians, directly and indirectly. Some CSU politicians have also met Palestinians in such Arab countries as Syria or Saudi Arabia, for example, so that these talks did not have an official character . That is clear. Everybody visiting the Arab world will be confronted by this problem because the Palestinian problem is the main problem of that conflict. He who has not talked to the Palestinians is politically--let us say--three steps behind.

PLO 'REJECTS ANY CONDITIONS' FOR 'ARAFAT VISIT TO FRANCE

LD261329 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Fawzi Ayyub untitled report]

[Text] Paris--PLO Representative in Paris Ibrahim as-Sus has stated that the PLO rejects any conditions France might impose with regard to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's expected visit to Paris.

In the course of his discussion of Resolution 242, which was issued by the UN Security Council in the wake of the June 1967 war, as-Sus said that the PLO rejects any amendment to Resolution 242 in view of the fact that it has rejected the resolution itself and is asking for a new resolution.

PLO OPPOSES REOPENING OF GAZA BANK FALASTIN

TA271425 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Leading PLO figures object to the reopening of Bank Falastin in the Gaza Strip. The bank has been closed since the 1967 6-Day War. A Gaza inhabitant who holds a senior public position in the area has told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that the PLO fears that Israel would take advantage of the bank to infiltrate into the Arab countries' monetary markets, which violates the rules of the Arab boycott.

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL SPEAKER ON INDIAN SUPPORT FOR PLO

BK271625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Mr Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council, has said that India had always been supporting the Palestinians no matter which party was in power. In an interview with All India Radio's West Asia correspondent Arun Roy in Damascus, he said that the people of Palestine are glad that Mrs Gandhi is back in power. For she has been very active in supporting the just rights of the Palestinians. He was sure that under Mrs Gandhi's leadership India will be playing a more active role in the world politics and for the nonalined movement.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES FATAH'S ABU IYAD 26 MARCH

JN261207 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1035 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Manama, 26 March--Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad. After the meeting, Salah Khalaf said that he discussed with his highness the amir of Bahrain the latest developments in the Palestine question, the situation in Lebanon and the general situation in the Arab arena.

Answering a question on the PLO's call for the formation of military unity among Syria, Iraq, the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Front, Salah Khalaf said: We have been calling for such a unity since a long time ago in order to form an Arab military balance of power around the occupied territory. He added that such a measure is a sufficient reply to all plots against the Palestinian revolution.

Salah Khalaf called on all Arab states to overcome their peripheral differences and use all their economic, political and military potentials to confront all external challenges.

Answering a question on the objectives of his current tour of a number of states in the region, Khalaf said: This tour aims at reconciling viewpoints on a number of issues so that there will be no contradiction in the region except for the Arab-Zionist contradiction, which all of us know.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak and PLO representative in Bahrain Wafa Nabhan. Salah Khalaf arrived in Manama earlier today on a visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of several states in the region.

Departure 27 March

JN270904 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0825 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Manama, 27 March--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, left Manama for Beirut this morning after a 1-day visit to Bahrain. During his visit, the Palestinian official held talks with top Bahraini officials on the latest developments in the Palestinie issue, Arab issues in general and the situation in Lebanon.

Abu Iyad was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and several top Bahraini officials. The Fatah Central Committee member has made a tour of a number of states in the region, including the PDRY, Qatar, the UAE and Bahrain.

KUWAIT

SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES IRANIAN CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT

LD261316 Kuwait KUNA in English 1148 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

["Mininterpretation"--KUNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, March 26, (KUNA)--The Iranian ambassador here 'Ali Shams Atdakani clarified Wednesday that the Paris-based AN-NAHAR Arab international magazine and the news agencies had misinterpreted an interview conducted by the said magazine with the Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, especially the part related to the Arabian Gulf countries.

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad al-Mobaraki, who announced this, said that the ambassador has conveyed this clarification during his meeting with the Foreign Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid here today.

The spokesman added that Ambassador Ardkani reaffirmed his country's preparedness for fruitful cooperation with the Gulf countries and for raising this cooperation to a higher level.

The Iranian envoy informed Ar-Rashid that President Bani-Sadr meant in the interview "the illegal American interests in the region and the U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of the region's countries."

Ardkani stated that Iran has no intention to interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of the region or their systems of government. He hailed "the clear and positive stands of Kuwait" and said there are excellent chances for cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Mobaraki said that the Iranian envoy asked Ar-Rashid during their meeting to convey the good wishes of President Bani-Sadr to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

PDRY

STATEMENT DENIES EXISTENCE OF SOVIET BASES IN ADEN

LD271507 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Mar 80 p 11 LD

[Undatelined report: "Aden Denies the Existence of Soviet Bases in Aden"]

[Text] The PDRY Embassy in Kuwait has denied allegations about the presence of Soviet bases in Aden. In a press statement, the embassy said that these allegations were desperate attempts designed to blackmail certain regimes politically and financially.

Referring to the political and propaganda statements attacking the Aden regime, the statement pointed out that these campaigns aimed to preoccupy the Arab people for the purpose of establishing American military bases in the area.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

LD271606 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister, received in his office this morning the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Comrade Aleksey Shkolnikov.

At the meeting, which was attended by brother 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim, secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and Comrade Feliks Fedotov, the Soviet ambassador in Aden, the brother chairman of the Council of Ministers and the Soviet parliamentary delegation held cordial talks on a number of issues of interest to the two friendly countries. They stressed the importance of developing parliamentary relations and exchanging experience. The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed his satisfaction with the development of the friendly cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the USSR in various fields. The leader of the Soviet delegation expressed pleasure at the consolidation of the Arab and international stances of Democratic Yemen and the Yemeni people's achievements for the benefit of workers in Democratic Yemen.

Meeting With Chairman Isma'il

LD261606 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, general secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, today received a Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Aleksey Shkolnikov, member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Soviet Committee of People's Control, who is currently visiting the republic. During the meeting the two discussed their respective experiences of parliamentary business of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Supreme People's Council in Democratic Yemen. Parliamentary cooperation between the two assemblies and ways of developing it in the interest of the two friendly peoples, in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between the two countries, were also discussed.

Comrade Shkolnikov said he was pleased with the results of his visit. He praised the revolutionary transformations being achieved by the people of Democratic Yemen, led by the YSP.

Comrade 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il praised the high level of cooperation and friendship achieved by Democratic Yemen and the USSR, stressing that this is in keeping with the wishes and joint aims of the two peoples and serve the causes of liberation, progress and peace.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abdallah al-Ghanim, secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and 'Ali Ahmad as-Sallami, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Supreme People's Council.

Official talks were concluded earlier today between the visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation and a delegation of the Supreme People's Council, led by brother 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim. The two sides reviewed the parliamentary experiences of the two friendly countries and exchanged views on aspects of them. During the discussions emphasis was also placed on the need to step up parliamentary cooperation and to exchange experiences between the two assemblies.

YSP OFFICIAL MEETS SOVIET ECONOMIC ADVISER

ID270820 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 80 ID/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, Political Bureau Member and Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee secretary, this morning received Comrade Alkhimov, economic adviser of the Soviet Embassy in Aden. They discussed the results of the proceedings of the joint Soviet-Yemeni economic committee and appropriate ways of implementing all the contracts agreed upon and signed within the framework of the economic, technical and trade cooperation agreement between the two countries. During the meeting, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali emphasized the importance of strengthening economic and technical relations between the YSP and the CPSU.

OFFICIAL SEES VISITING PALESTINIAN LEADER

ID262056 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 80 ID/EA

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-Bakr Badhib, Central Committee member and secretary of the party's organization in the Aden Governorate, this morning received brother Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Palestinian organization, As-Sa'iqah, and leader of the delegation visiting our country. During the meeting, brother Badhib explained the experience of party activities in the governorate in various spheres. He assured the visiting delegation of Democratic Yemen's party and government support for the brotherly Palestinian peoples struggle against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught which is represented by the Camp David accords and aims at liquidating Syria and subjecting it to imperialist and reactionary hegemony.

Brother Isam al-Qadi expressed deep gratification at the results of his visit to Democratic Yemen and gratitude to our Yemeni masses for their firm principles backing of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

ISMA'IL GREETS HUNGARY'S KADAR, MSZMP CONGRESS

ID232024 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 80 ID/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Comrade Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP]. The telegram says:

On the occasion of the convening of your party's 12th congress, I am happy to greet you and all Hungarian communists warmly on behalf of the YSP Central Committee and the Political Bureau. Our party and people greatly admire the struggle of your friendly party, which led with all solidarity the workers and toiling Hungarian masses in the struggle against fascism and Nazism, over which it won the most splendid victories. These victories were crowned by the success in the process of building the socialist society, an achievement which has placed your country in a prominent position, attracting the attention of progressives all over the world. Our party regards the convening of the 12th MSZMP congress as the culmination of the progress achieved by your people under the leadership of your great party in the process of socialist construction which includes the raising of the material and spiritual quality of life the creation of the material and technological base for the building of a developed socialist society, and the development of the plans for the tasks of the next phase of the march along this road.

The convening of your glorious congress takes place at a time in the international situation when U.S. imperialism is attempting to return to the cold war and an atmosphere of international tension by kindling a campaign of hostility against the USSR and the socialist community and by inventing flimsy pretexts for interfering in many parts of the world. The NATO decision to deploy nuclear missiles in West European countries and the movements of U.S. fleets in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf illustrate the aggressive tendencies of U.S. imperialism. All of this contributes to the undermining of international detente and seriously damages the efforts to limit the arms race. In this we see nothing but an expression of the deep crisis through which world imperialism is passing and the desparate attempts to respond to the defeats inflicted on it by the militant peoples fighting for their freedom, independence and social progress on three continents.

Our YSP, which has constantly led the struggle of our Yemeni people to achieve the tasks of the national democratic revolution with its socialist prospects, its inspired by your glorious struggle, your rich struggle experience and your high ideals in the promotion of your own struggle in the face of all the imperialist and reactionary plots attempting to obstruct its progress. It highly appreciates the disinterested support given to it by the countries of the socialist community, headed by the great CPSU. [as heard] On this historic occasion, the occasion of the convening of the MSZMP congress, permit me, dear comrade, to express our deep regard for the growing militant relations between our two parties and peoples springing from the spirit of the principles of proletarian internationalism and internationalist solidarity. We have great confidence that these relations will be further enhanced to serve common interests and world peace. We wish your glorious congress every success and the friendly Hungarian people further progress and prosperity.

COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER

LD231522 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] have expressed support for the Iranian Revolution, the Omani people's revolution under leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, and the struggle of the Western Saharan people under POLISARIO leadership. The two sides stressed the need to back the Afghan people in defending their national rights and consolidate the revolutionary gains of the Afghan Revolution of April 1978. They condemned the direct U.S. military presence in the Arab Gulf, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

This was contained in the communique issued today following the 4-day visit of a PCP delegation led by Comrade Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the PCP. During their visit the delegates met brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and a number of officials. An inter-party cooperation protocol was signed between the YSP and the PCP during the visit.

The PCP delegates left Aden for home today after concluding their visit made at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee. They were seen off at the airport by brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Badhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and a number of other officials.

ADEN NEWS AGENCY CONDEMNS AS-SADAT FOR RECEIVING SHAH

LD261650 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] The ADEN NEWS AGENCY has said As-Sadat's reception of the deposed shah in Arab Egypt clarifies As-Sadat's readiness to continue his course of treason against the causes of the Arab peoples. It added, in its commentary today, that this stance on the part of As-Sadat is an extension of the conspiratorial steps he began by visiting Jerusalem, defying the will of the Arab nation and Islamic peoples and then signing the Camp David treasonous accord normalizing relations with the Zionist enemy. The commentary stressed the inevitability of an uprising by the Egyptian people, who have a history of noble struggle against tyranny and colonialists.

SAUDI ARABIA

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR GULF COLLABORATION ON DEFENSE ISSUES

LD261431 Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] In the light of the Arab-Israeli conflict, dangers will continue surrounding the Arab area as long as Israel continues to draw up its plans on the basis of expansion at the Arab peoples' expense. Undoubtedly the Kuwait defense minister's indication that a state of war continues to exist between the Arab states and Israel despite the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations portrays the basis of the Arab dealing with the changes surrounding the Arab area--a matter which demands more preparations to defend the area and more insistence on keeping the area out of international conflicts.

It is true that Israel represents a direct threat to all the Arabs. The achievement of joint cooperation and coordination among the Arab states would manifest Arab strength capable of confronting all challenges. Understanding among the Gulf Arab states and their agreement on the principle of defending the area themselves represents a frank rejection of any foreign interference in the area. This is the basis of the political stands adopted by the Gulf Arab states.

Therefore, and in view of the changes surrounding the area, it has become necessary for the Gulf states to collaborate to program their strategy, which is based on the conviction of a common destiny, so as to demonstrate strength enough to be felt by the forces which have ambitions in the area. Political and military unity of the Gulf Arab states has become one of the necessities brought about by the Israeli challenge. As long as these states adhere to the need to achieve the basic demands in order to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, they must take precautions against any eventuality, especially since the area's states are bound by historical ties which constitute a solid ground for joint action whether to defend the Gulf or to dedicate their capabilities to the service of the main Arab issue, until rights are restored and comprehensive peace and stability are established in the Middle East.

ALGERIA'S BENDJEDID ARRIVES 27 MARCH MEETS KING KHALID

LD271532 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Riyadh--"Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Riyadh at 1645 this afternoon on a visit to the kingdom. At Riyadh airport he was met by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, His Royal Highness Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and Shaykh 'Abdallah an-Na'im, mayor of Riyadh."

In the reception hall, the guest shook hands with those welcoming him, led by Defense Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. "The guest is accompanied by Mohammed Saleh Yahiaoui, party coordinator and member of the Political Bureau; Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister and Mr Abdallah Belhouchet, member of the Political Bureau and army inspector general.

"His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed the conviction that this visit, the first by the guest to the kingdom and to the Arab east, will be beneficial in that he will get to know the thoughts and [word indistinct] of these states. In a press statement his royal highness said that the visit will have a great impact on relations between Algeria and the countries of the Arab east and also on the Arab situation in general."

The Saudi ambassador to Algeria also said that the visit will open new horizons for the promotion of bilateral relations. He said that both sides will be discussing international and Arab issues.

Talks Begin in Riyadh

LD272006 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 27 March, SPA--Saudi-Algerian official talks, led by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the Algerian president, Chadli Bendjedid, started at 2100. The talks were attended on the Saudi side by: His Royal Highness Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, and Shaykh Abdallah al-Malhuq, Saudi ambassador to Algeria.

On the Algerian side they were attended by: Muhammad as-Salih Yahyawi, member of the Political Bureau and party coordinator; Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Col Abdallah Bilhushat, member of the Political Bureau and general commander of the army; Muhammad al-Amir, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the social affairs committee, and Mustafa Mu'ayzah, Algerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The talks dealt with a number of issues of common interest, and bilateral relations.

UAE

MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER

JN270926 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 March--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah has received a written message from Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The message was conveyed by Saudi charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi Faris al-Hamid when he met with Rashid 'Abdallah here today.

In a statement following the meeting, Al-Hamid said that the message deals with bilateral relations and issues of common interest. He added that during the meeting with Rashid 'Abdallah he discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the area.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES ERITREAN LEADER 26 MARCH

JN261212 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 March--UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum received here this morning Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Executive Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces.

During the meeting, the Eritrean leader briefed His Highness Shaykh Rashid on the latest developments in the Eritrean arena and the conditions of Eritrean refugees living in southern Sudan. They also reviewed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Eritrean Front representative in the Gulf region Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Bakr.

LINOWITZ MEETS BURG, KHALIL, BUTRUS

NC271406 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--Sol Linowitz, head of the U.S. delegation to the autonomy talks, has stated that the Egyptian, Israeli and U.S. parties want to make the anticipated Washington meeting useful.

Linowitz said that a statement on the present negotiations will be issued today. He refused to comment on his meeting with Burg today, but then he said that it was good.

Sol Linowitz met with Burg for 2 1/2 hours. He met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and also held 3-hour consultations with Mustafa Khalil, prime minister and foreign minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks.

Hold Press Conference

NC271926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--The heads of the three delegations to the autonomy talks held a joint press conference at the end of the public session. Dr Mustafa Khalil, Egyptian prime minister and foreign minister and head of the Egyptian delegation, answering a question on whether the concept of security was discussed during the session, said: We discussed this subject during the discussions and we hope that progress will be made in this regard. At this point, Israeli Interior Minister and head of the Israeli delegation Yosef Burg confirmed Dr Mustafa Khalil's remarks and added: We have begun a very deep and extensive discussion of the security problem and I can say that we are now closer than we were in the morning.

Head of the U.S. delegation Sol Linowitz answered a question on whether a tripartite meeting will be held following the Washington meetings which President Jimmy Carter will hold separately with President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. He said: President Carter will meet separately with President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin in order to learn their views. Afterward, the possibility of continuing the talks through another method will be considered.

Linowitz added that President as-Sadat's visit will pprecede Begin's visit and that it is difficult to say now if a tripartite meeting among the three leaders will be held. Answering a question on the progress made thus far in the talks, Linowitz noted that there have been attempts to make progress and that there are differences as well as understanding on some other topics.

Answering a question on considering 26 May as a final date for the autonomy negotiations, the leader of the Israeli delegation, Yosef Burg, said: "We talk, we do not debate." He added: The date of 26 May is considered an incentive for us to reach a result.

Here Ambassador Linowitz interrupted Burg, saying: The two sides are undoubtedly committed to do their utmost to reach an agreement before 26 May despite the difference in the Egyptian and Israeli points of view on this subject.

Asked about the participation in the elections of the Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: This depends on the measures connected with the elections. The points of view have been clarified. We have not discussed the question of Jerusalem this time. Dr Mustafa Khalil added: The negotiations will deal with all issues as they progress.

Asked if the question of the settlements and the establishment of Jewish schools in the Hebron area was discussed, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: This question was not discussed this time. Yosef Burg commented, saying: This is not a political problem and it is not an issue to be discussed at the autonomy negotiations. However, we are trying to coexist peacefully in our region.

Asked about his statement at the public session this evening that an understanding has been reached on certain matters and how this understanding was reached, Ambassador Linowitz said: I will not go into details now but I declare that these are basic and fundamental matters. There is an attempt to move forward and this attempt succeeds at times and fails at others. However, there has been a frank discussion of views on the basic points.

Asked whether he was dissatisfied with the progress at the discussions, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: I hope this view will change soon. He added that this depends on the result of the work of the new negotiating committees. Dr Mustafa Khalil went on: Regarding the question of security, we have asked Israel to form a security committee, our discussions today were conducted within this framework. We expressed our hope that Israel will soon give us its answer on this vital and important issue.

Asked if there has been any progress at the discussions on the question of Jerusalem, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: This question comes under another topic--the powers of the autonomy--which we did not discuss this time. He added that the tripartite committees will discuss this topic.

Answering another question on his statement to the effect that it would be difficult to achieve any progress if no agreement is reached on the question of security and how such progress could be achieved, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: We have discussed this and explained our view to Dr Burg and Yitzhaq Shamir. We hope that our position will be explained to the Israeli Government. We also (?hope) that the Israeli Government will make a decision on this matter.

Asked when he will give his answer to Egypt on the question of forming the security committee, Dr Burg said: This could happen before, during or after the summit meeting. Asked if the economic and legislative committees will meet before 26 May, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: The two committees, as well as the steering committee, could meet immediately.

Asked if the question of Gaza and the application of autonomy there first--before the West Bank--was discussed, Dr Yosef Burg said: We have not discussed this issue. As stipulated in the Camp David agreement, we want to find a situation which would be positive for all. Concerning the new committees and the place of their meetings, Dr Burg said: There is one timetable which we usually discuss. There are also the forthcoming summit conferences. Linowitz interrupted here to say: We have decided to intensify the discussions after the summit conferences in Washington so as to achieve something before 26 May.

Dr Mustafa Khalil answered in the affirmative when asked if the date of the next session of the autonomy negotiations general committee depends on the two summit conferences in Washington. Asked whether the autonomy powers have been defined, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: We are not concerned with definitions.

Concerning the powers of the security committee, Dr Mustafa Khalil said these powers are clear in the Camp David agreement. Speaking about the same issue, Dr Yosef Burg said: According to the Camp David accord, the question of security must be discussed. The question, however, is when and what are the related powers. In any case, we are closer to them at this moment than we were in the morning.

ISRAELI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA

NC271050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--The Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks under the chairmanship of Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg arrived in Alexandria this morning. The new Israeli foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, is participating in the talks for the first time.

The Israeli delegation was met at Alexandria airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

The Israeli delegation was originally scheduled to arrive at 0930; while the contacts between the Egyptian, American and Israeli delegations were scheduled to start at 1030. However, since the Israeli delegation was late in arriving, the aforementioned contacts will also start late.

Spokesman's Statement

NC271351 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--Observers close to the autonomy talks believe that the round will begin in Alexandria today will be characterized by a definite and decisive definition of the Egyptian and Israeli stands. Egypt is adhering to its firm principles concerning full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza and the handing over of all powers of the Israeli military rule, including civil administration to the elected Palestinian authority. The Egyptian stand also stresses the need to discuss the security issue on the basis that it concerns all parties and not only the Israeli side. The Egyptian stand includes east Jerusalem and the need to consider it an electoral constituency.

In the meantime official Israeli spokesman Dan Patir stood up in the hall of the San Stefano Hotel, where the negotiations are taking place, and reiterated to reporters that Israel insists on its stand on autonomy and insists that its stand will not change regarding the security issue. He said that Israel believes the security issue concerns it alone and that, therefore, it will determine the ways to preserve its security. He said Israel did not approve the formation of a security committee during the latest talks with Sol Linowitz.

Patir also said that his country believes in the need to set up legislative and economic committees at ministerial and not ambassadorial level as Egypt has done. Patir said that progress in the autonomy talks is the responsibility of all parties and not Israel alone. He said that Israel's stand is in keeping with the Camp David agreements. Asked about the possibility of U.S. President Jimmy Carter exerting pressure on Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Patir said: I do not believe that President Carter's aim is to pressure Menahem Begin, adding that Israel cannot accept pressure from anyone. Asked whether the Israeli side to the talks has new ideas Patir said: "We must first see if the Egyptian side has new ideas to give momentum to the talks." Asked about Israel's hopes for the Washington tripartite meeting Patir repeated what he said earlier that one meeting is insufficient to solve everything. He said that progress can be made during further meetings and agreements. He also said: We must not pin all hopes on Washington.

KHALIL MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN AUTONOMY DELEGATION

NC271358 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil met this afternoon with the members of the Egyptian delegation to the autonomy talks at the Palestine Hotel. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left the San Stefano Hotel for the Palestine Hotel at 1400 today to attend the meeting. Earlier Ghali met with Sol Linowitz after the latter's meeting with Dr Yosef Burg.

HEADS OF DELEGATIONS BEGIN MEETINGS 27 MAR

NC271530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--A tripartite meeting was held at the San Stefano Hotel at 1630 today among the heads of the three delegations to the Palestinian autonomy talks, Dr Mustafa Khalil, Yosef Burg and Sol Linowitz. The meeting started immediately upon Dr Mustafa Khalil's arrival at the hotel.

In addition to the heads of the three delegations, the meeting, which was held in the wing of Sol Linowitz [?suite] at the San Stefano Hotel, was also attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is participating in the negotiations for the first time. Shamir sat next to Dr Mustafa Khalil.

Security Issue

NC271703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--MENA has learned that during their long meeting today, Sol Linowitz, U.S. President Jimmy Carter's envoy, tried to reach some agreement with Dr Yosef Burg, the leader of the Israeli side to the autonomy negotiations, on the question of security and the formation of a committee to define the security concept, because Israel raises this question whenever any point connected with the powers of full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza is discussed.

MENA has further learned that Linowitz failed in his efforts to reach an understanding with the Israeli side on this question. Egypt considers it necessary to reach a defined concept for security and also considers that security concerns not only Israel but also all the other parties. Israel is trying to divide the question of security, to complicate it in various ways and give it various names. At their meeting today before the tripartite session, Sol Linowitz briefed Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on the results of his meeting with Dr Yosef Burg.

Meeting Ends

TA271814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] Another round of autonomy talks has ended in Alexandria. This has been reported by our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari. A news conference was held following a short meeting of the heads of the delegations--U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil. It has been reported that legal and economic committees will be established, as agreed upon in The Hague talks. Israel's demand that the legal committee be headed by ministers was rejected, and the committee will convene with the direction of [Behadrakhat] ministers. Israel has reiterated its position refusing to establish a joint committee on security affairs.

Statements Made

NC272023 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The heads of the delegations to the autonomy talks made statements at the beginning of the final session of the general autonomy committee. Prime Minister Dr Khalil was the first to speak. He welcomed the Israeli foreign minister, who came to attend the meetings for the first time. Khalil said: We are meeting on the first anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. On that day we started a new stage that is considered a cornerstone in establishing a comprehensive peace.

Khalil expressed the hope that solutions to the difficult problems facing the negotiations and ways to establish full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza will be found. Khalil said that the three parties are determined to solve the problem. He said that during the discussions all efforts possible were made to solve these difficult problems. Khalil greeted the contribution by the head of the U.S. delegation to the negotiations, saying that he came with constructive proposals and opinions regarding the differences.

Head of the Israeli delegation Yosef Burg made a statement. He said: We signed the peace treaty in Washington last year and we must continue our discussions in order to fulfill the provisions outlined in the treaty.

Head of the U.S. delegation Sol Linowitz made a statement, saying: We are acting to pave the way for the Washington meeting. He expressed the hope that problems obstructive the negotiations will be overcome.

KHALIL: MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON

NC271907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--Before leaving San Stefano Hotel this evening after the completion of the autonomy negotiations, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the main issues and general basis of questions related to the Palestinian autonomy will be discussed at the meetings which the U.S. President will hold in Washington with President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said in a press statement that it is possible that the economic and legislative committees will achieve tangible results before the Washington meeting and that these results might be discussed during the Washington meeting.

The prime minister added that the security concept is considered one of the important and vital issues and that this concept must be clearly discussed before 26 May so that agreement may be reached on it. He added that the Israeli Government has been informed of the importance of discussing the security concept and of forming a committee for this purpose.

Dr Mustafa Khalil further said that the autonomy negotiations have provided a good opportunity for becoming acquainted with the views and topics on which there is an agreement or disagreement concerning the West Bank and Gaza.

The prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed the need to achieve positive and specific results before 26 May. He also reaffirmed that it is necessary to adhere to this date because of the importance of reaching a permanent, just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis, particularly under the current international circumstances and their dictates on the situation in the Middle East.

In his statement, Dr Mustafa Khalil emphasized the importance of a number of issues related to the autonomy, such as defining the electoral constituencies and their method [as received] in such a way as to lead in the future to the formation of political parties represented by persons elected to the Palestinian council.

Dr Mustafa Khalil further stressed that it is extremely important that the Israeli side define the concept of security in order that it may not raise this issue in various fields. He said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir's presence at these meetings will lead to a better clarification of the security concept.

KHALIL: LEGAL, ECONOMIC COMMITTEES SHOULD MEET AT ONCE

NC272325 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has declared that if the followup and legal and economic affairs committees stemming from the autonomy negotiations were to meet at once, then they would be able to produce fruitful work. Dr Mustafa Khalil added that if the legal and economic committees had met earlier, as scheduled, it would have been possible for them to have presented fruitful results during today's round of negotiations, at least in learning the different points of view.

In press statements tonight, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that these committees could meet directly. He added that this was the only progress achieved during the 10th round of the general ministerial committee stemming from the autonomy negotiations which ended its activities in Alexandria this evening.

Answering a question on the development of the autonomy negotiations since the beginning, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: There have been continuous work and attempts during this period to find a ground for becoming acquainted with the various points of view. There have been areas of agreement and areas of disagreement. The Israeli side has not expressed its opinion in other areas.

Dr Mustafa Khalil denied that today's round of negotiations contributed to the preparation for the meetings in Washington next month.

Asked whether Egypt has prepared alternatives if no positive results are achieved before the date set for concluding the autonomy negotiations, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: We are preparing for all eventualities and considering many propositions. It is natural that we should make propositions for every eventuality and devise a method for confronting various circumstances.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that when Dr Yosef Burg, the leader of the Israeli delegation to the autonomy negotiations, raised the question of Israel's need for security at today's discussions, Dr Mustafa Khalil reaffirmed that all parties need security and that security should stem from the principles mentioned in the Camp David agreement which refer to the presence of border patrols for this purpose.

Concerning the security concept and the formation of a security committee, MENA has learned that Dr Yosef Burg said that he was not authorized to discuss this matter and that he will refer it to the Israeli Cabinet and then answer the Egyptian side.

MENA has further learned that Egypt has refused Israel's attempt to have the Egyptian representation at the economic and legal committees be at ministerial level.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RECEIVES LINOWITZ 28 MAR

NC281018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 28 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met this morning with Sol Linowitz, U.S. President Carter's Middle East envoy, who arrived in Cairo earlier this morning from Alexandria after attending the 10th session of autonomy negotiations concluded yesterday. The 1-hour meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton.

After his meeting with Sol Linowitz, President as-Sadat told reporters: "I have concluded my discussions with my friend Sol after the meeting, which was held in Alexandria. We exchanged views--particularly on my visit to Washington which is scheduled to take place on 1 April, during which we will hold discussions with President Carter and with Sol. Let us hope that matters will be brighter. As a matter of fact--as I have been saying--I am always optimistic; and I am still optimistic. Thank you."

After the president's remarks, the U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East, Sol Linowitz, delivered a statement in which he said: We exchanged views--just as President as-Sadat said. I found our exchange to be fruitful and enlightening. I will convey to President Carter the substance of our discussions. And I know the President will be eager to meet President as-Sadat when he arrives in Washington so as to more fully exchange views concerning a number of the topics which we discussed together. I am deeply grateful to the president for having received me again. Thank you.

Linowitz Departure

NC281058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 28 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 March--Sol Linowitz, U.S. President Carter's Middle East envoy and head of the U.S. delegation to the autonomy negotiations, left Cairo at noon today for the United States.

During his 4-day visit to Egypt, Linowitz led the U.S. side in yesterday's tripartite meeting on autonomy, held in Alexandria.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT LEAVES BAGHDAD 27 MARCH

JN271348 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 March--Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Baghdad today at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq, which came at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn.

The Algerian president was accorded an official sendoff. He was seen off by President Saddam Husayn, the RCC members, the ministers, several senior Iraqi officials and members of the Arab diplomatic corps in Baghdad.

During the visit, the Algerian president and his delegation held a round of official and party talks with President Saddam Husayn, which were attended by several national command members, deputies to the prime minister and several RCC members.

Presidents Saddam Husayn and Chadli Bendjedid also held closed talks, to complete the discussion of the topics that were touched on during the two sides' official and party talks.

The Iraqi-Algerian talks dealt with Arab and international events and with bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them.

The Algerian president was accompanied by an official and party delegation comprising several members of the FLN Political Bureau and Central Committee.

CUBAN MINISTER TOURS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

FL262231 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2207 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Levi Farah, Cuban minister in charge of constructions abroad, and Iraqi Public Works and Housing Minister Muhammad Fadil have toured several construction projects in the Provinces of (Altamen) and Mosul in northern Iraq. In Kirkuk, capital of (Altamen), they visited the Cuban construction enterprises, oil installations and a bridge that Iraq is building in (Dibbis).

In Mosul, Governor (Subi 'Ali) welcomed the Cuban ministerial delegation which visited several projects including the Kirkuk-Mosul highway, a teacher training institute, a prefabricated elements plant, a housing development zone and a bridge. It also visited the city's university and museum.

Levi Farah also met with the Cuban workers at their (Kuai) camp near Mosul.

AD-DUSTUR DISCUSSES AUTONOMY TALKS IN ALEXANDRIA

JN280851 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the new round of local self-rule negotiations between Egypt and Israel in an editorial entitled "Nothing New in the Alexandria Negotiations," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: During his meeting with the Egyptian prime minister and the Israeli interior minister before the convocation of the round of negotiations in Alexandria, the head of the U.S. side to the self-rule negotiations tried to bring pressure to bear on both sides by hinting at the gravity of failure in this round of talks, which might pave the way for Western Europe to put forward its initiative on a solution to the crisis.

President Carter's action in inviting the Egyptian president and Menahem Begin to visit Washington in April is tantamount to a tacit admission of the impossibility of the negotiators' emergence from the deadlock, except through this meeting. The round of negotiations in Alexandria and the stands that surfaced during these negotiations strengthened the U.S. advance anticipation of failure. The round ended after only one session and all of the topics were deferred to the anticipated meeting with President Carter.

AD-DUSTUR adds: It is certain that President Carter's envoy was aware of the impossibility of salvaging the negotiations in the wake of the sterile discussions that he held with the Begin-Shamir-Burg triumverate, which ended with Begin's rejection of the proposal to suspend settlement until the dealine of the negotiations on 26 May. The U.S. envoy also realized at the only session of the negotiations in Alexandria that Israel also refuses to discuss its concepts of security with Egypt or with the United States itself.

AD-DUSTUR says in conclusion: The achievement of any progress in the self-rule negotiations that does not respond to Israel's conditions, which can't be met, is impossible. It is also impossible to force Israel to stop its settlement operations in the occupied Arab territories. We do not believe that President Carter can brandish a heavy stick in Begin's face at a time when he is in dire need of placating U.S. jewry in an election year.

In view of these miserable facts, the Arab states concerned have no other alternative but to exert all of their efforts, in cooperation with the European countries and the United Nations, to wrest the initiative from the United States and to draft an integrated peace plan, supported and imposed upon Israel by the entire world.

MILITARY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS

NC271752 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The military delegation led by the army's chief of general Staff, Maj Gen Munir Tarabayh returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening after meeting with Syrian Army chief of Staff Lt Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi and Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan within the framework of coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian armies in the fields of training and education. No statement has been issued on the results of the military discussions.

PRESIDENT SARKIS RECEIVES SHAM'UN, AL-JUMAYYIL

NC271953 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] At 1730 today His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis received former President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. At the meeting, which lasted until 1930, current security and political developments were reviewed.

After the visit, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: the meeting was very useful. For 2 hours we discussed various topical political, security and other matters with President Ilyas Sarkis. Of course his excellency briefed us on the state of affairs.

Shaykh Pierre added: The country is our country. It is incumbent on all of us to cooperate among ourselves to end the crisis from which Lebanon is suffering. In the final analysis, we are all responsible and it is imperative for every responsible person to face up to his responsibilities in all sincerity and impartiality.

VOICE OF LEBANON: FATAH OCCUPIES MOUNTAIN IN SOUTH

NC272045 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Our correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the Fatah organization has occupied (?Sayrub) Mountain near Al-Miyah Wa Miyah township and has begun building technical installations.

Last night about 100 armed Palestinians entered the town of 'Ayn (?Bratil) near 'Alayh with the aim of stationing themselves in the town's houses. The armed men warned the inhabitants that they will occupy the houses by force if their demands are not met.

LEBANESE PAPER: USSR REPORTEDLY SUPPLIES MIGS, RADAR

NC271130 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, March 27 (AFP)--The Soviet Union recently delivered to Syria an unspecified number of MiG fighter bombers and a radar system which uses infrared rays, the Lebanese Phalangist party paper AL-'AMAL reported today. It said a Soviet general visited Damascus shortly before the arms delivery to ensure that the Syrian authorities used a suitable camouflage to prevent American spy planes spotting the MiGs or the radar equipment.

AL-ASAD, HAWATIMAH DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB REGION

JN272014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], and members of the front's command, Salih Ra'fat, Qays as-Samarra'i and Hamman 'abd al-Latif at 1415 today.

Nayif Hawatimah denounced the conspiracies to which Syria is being subjected at the hands of the Camp David partners and the agents. He stressed the DPFLP's stand by Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, in its honorable and courageous stand against these conspiracies. He reiterated that Syria is fiercely and bravely defending Arab pride and existence.

He said that Syria's battle is the Palestinian revolution's battle because they are fighting in the same trench against joint enemies.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed in detail developments in the Arab situation and the increased plotting aimed at destroying the Palestinian issue. The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening the unity of all progressive and nationalist forces and supporting the steadfastness front in order to foil hostile plans.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES WFTU PRESIDENT

JN271804 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Enrique Pastorino, president of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU]. The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and president of the General Federation of Syrian Trade Unions.

Pastorino asserted on behalf of 190 million workers that the world working class, which is confronting U.S. imperialism, Israeli aggression and As-Sadat's treason, tenaciously supports Syria and its historic role under leader President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that Syria's cause is one of the world peoples and trade unions. He added: It is our duty to defend this cause and to reiterate our solidarity and that of all the trade unions with Syria. He praised the revolutionary decisions Syria has recently taken in favor of the working class.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed appreciation for Pastorino's stand which embodies the WFTU's stand. This is because our stand is one against imperialism and because together we are waging the battle of freedom.

President Hafiz al-Asad explained that the vicious imperialist onslaught against Syria is part of its hostile attitude toward the nations, their freedom and rights.

President al-Asad said: Imperialism has recently intensified its onslaught against Syria and has stirred up its tools because Syria represents the stumbling block vis-a-vis its plots and plans.

President al-Asad said: We are not indifferent toward the battle, but we are confident that victory is ours in the end. He expressed his high appreciation for the WFTU's efforts. He asked Mr Pastorino to convey his greetings to all the WFTU leaders.

WFTU Issues Statement

JN280657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] WFTU, which comprises more than 190 million workers, has proclaimed its total solidarity with the Syrian working class, people and leadership, led by struggling Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the republic. WFTU also proclaimed its total support for the Syrian unionist movement and its readiness to give all possible assistance to render this steadfastness tangible and effective.

This came in a WFTU statement read at a press conference last night in the Trade Unions Federation headquarters in Damascus. The press conference was attended by Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, chairman of the Trade Unions Federation; WFTU president Comrade Enrique Pastorinio; and brother Hamid Jallud, secretary general of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU].

The statement affirmed that Syria has played and is still playing an advanced role within the Arab liberation movement, through its firm stands against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and in its adherence to the principles of political and economic liberation. The statement condemned the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat onslaught and the Carter-As-Sadat-Begin alliance. It said that Syria was the primary target of this onslaught, in view of its vanguard role, in an effort to weaken it, contain it and impose humiliating concessions upon all of the Arab countries.

At the press conference, Mr Enrique Pastorinio and the WFTU delegation affirmed that WFTU is preparing to convene a conference in Madrid in solidarity with the Syrian people and progressive regime.

ICATU secretary general brother Hamid Jallud also spoke at the press conference. He affirmed that support for Syria is support for all nationalist and progressive forces in the Arab homeland.

SYRIAN COMMUNIST OFFICIAL ATTACKS AL-ASAD REGIME

JN271923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 March--Ahmad Ihsan Mahfal, the representative of the Syrian Communist Party to the pan-Arab people's conference, has briefed the participants in the conference on the oppression to which the Syrian masses are exposed. In a statement to INA, he said that his speech at the conference expressed a small part of what is taking place in Syria.

The Syrian Communist Party official has called upon the pan-Arab people's conference to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the Syrian regime's practices, which contravene the basic human rights, and to acquaint Arab public opinion with its report.

He added that the Syrian authorities have recently intensified their oppression against the democratic and national parties and patriotic figures. The authorities, he added, have gone even further to destroy residential quarters in Aleppo, Hamah, Latakia and Jisr ash-Shughur.

Mahfal said that hundreds of innocent citizens have fallen during the last 2 weeks. He added that the authorities carried out mass murder by passing death sentences on several citizens at a time when the regime is trying to mislead the public by saying that the popular uprising is being carried out by a specific faction. He asserted that all the democratic and national forces, the lawyers, engineers, doctors and pharmacists unions and all the patriotic figures are effectively participating with the popular masses to set up a democratic and national regime.

Reviewing the development of events since the 5 June 1967 setback, Mahfal said that the Egyptian-Zionist treaty is purely a fruit of a settlement course initiated by the Egyptian and Syrian regimes and others. This began with the disengagement agreements, the Sinai treaty and the intervention in Lebanon.

The communist party representative said that the democratic and national parties in Syria are endeavoring to move in this direction for they are aware that Syria is the key to the solution in the Arab east, particularly since Syria was a stronghold against all the military alliances and a base for overthrowing all the Arab regimes that were linked with these alliances. Syria made the Palestine issue the axis of every national struggle. This prompted world imperialism to try to wipe out Syria's role and to destroy its national face.

He said that [word indistinct] events in Syria have wiped out the regime's attempts to preserve [word indistinct] the internal situation. These events have disclosed the deep abyss separating the rulers and the masses and demonstrated the popular resentment against the policies which have led to the economic destruction, political bankruptcy and the disintegration of the national cohesion. He added that the settlement game in which the Syrian regime has submerged itself together with the Egyptian rulers and the blessings of some Arab reactionary countries has deepened the crisis in Syria.

Ahmad Ihsan Mahfal said that though the Syrian authorities are now in disagreement with the Egyptian rulers about the course of settlement, they are in constant contact with the forces that are motivating the settlement on the international and Arab levels. The Syrian regime believes that by insuring an even-handed Arab and international situation, even for a while, this will solve its [word indistinct] by intensifying oppression against the democratic and national parties and patriotic figures.

He added that the Syrian masses will continue their struggle relentlessly until this regime is overthrown and a democratic national regime is set up. Then and only then will Syria's democratic, national and pan-Arab face be restored.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES ERITREAN FRONT LEADER

JN261425 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Ba'th Socialist Party assistant secretary general, this morning received brother Ahmad Muhammad Nasser, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] Executive Committee and the ELF Revolutionary Council. Nasser was accompanied by ELF Revolutionary Council members Saleh (Iyan) and Dr (Hitti Sistamaria).

The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party National Command and head of the foreign relations bureau.

After welcoming brother Nasser, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar listened to an explanation of the latest developments in the Eritrean revolution, particularly the military and political developments and the circumstances surrounding this revolution.

Brother Nasser expressed the Eritrean people's appreciation and gratitude to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's and the Syrian people's support for and backing of the Eritrean revolution to enable it to achieve liberation and independence.

Comrade al-Ahmar lauded the Eritrean people's struggle against occupation, a struggle waged to achieve liberation and the right to determine their fate. Al-Ahmar reiterated the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's firm and principled stand, which is manifested through this party giving all forms of aid to the Eritrean revolution in order to help achieve the Eritrean people's aspirations.

Al-Ahmar reviewed the latest developments in the Arab region's political situation, explaining the circumstances which the Arab homeland and its progressive elements are passing through, particularly following the U.S. imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat onslaught, which aims to undermine the Arab nation's steadfastness, liquidate the Arab people's rights and impose imperialist-Zionist hegemony over the Arab homeland.

Al-Ahmar affirmed the steadfastness of the revolution in Syria under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the face of all imperialist and reactionary plots and challenges. He also affirmed that the masses in Syria are rallying around the revolution and its leading party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES INDIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER

JN271814 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Indian Air Force Commander Marshal (Idris Hasan Latif). The meeting was attended by the Syrian Air Force commander and the Indian ambassador in Damascus.

The Indian Air Force commander conveyed the greetings of the Indian president and prime minister to President Hafiz al-Asad. The talks dealt with cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the air force.

At the end of the meeting, President al-Asad asked him to convey his greetings to the Indian president and prime minister.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BENDJEDID TO VISIT PDRY 28 MARCH

LD280105 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0001 GMT 28 Mar 80 LD

[Text] At the invitation of chairman 'Abd al-Fatah Isma'il, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, is to pay a working and friendship visit to the PDRY, starting today, Friday. The president is accompanied by an important delegation, which includes a number of members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee.

LIBYA

LE MONDE: AIR FORCE FIRES ON FRENCH PATROL PLANE

LD271301 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Mar 80 pp 1, 7 LD

[J.I. report: "Franco-Libyan Air Incident in the Mediterranean"]

[Text] On Sunday, 23 March two Libyan Air Force Mirage-III planes opened fire on a French Breguet-Atlantic marine patrol plane on a mission in the Mediterranean. The air incident took place 20 nautical miles (around 36 km) off the Libyan coast, in other words outside territorial waters, according to information given by French sources.

After the Qafsah affair last January, which prompted France to supply the Tunisian army with several Transall transport aircraft and Puma helicopters while three French Navy warships temporarily patrolled the Gulf of Gabes, Libya reacted energetically against France.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's government immediately denounced what he called the "French invasion of Tunisia." Libyan demonstrators attacked the French Embassy in Tripoli and the French Consulate in Banghazi on 4 February. Since then the quarrel has died down. President al-Qadhdhafi indicated that his country was not pursuing its grievances against France while Paris submitted demands for compensation for the sacking of its offices.

Since then it has been revealed that a French cargo ship L'Astor had been held since October 1979 after being chartered to transport arms.

The air incident which took place at the end of last week on Sunday, 23 March was between two Libyan Mirage-III aircraft and a French Breguet-Atlantic patrolling outside territorial waters which are limited to 12 nautical miles (around 22 km). As is known France has since 1969 supplied Tripoli with 110 Mirage-III and Mirage-I aircraft and 38 Mirage F-1 interception aircraft and that it trained the crews.

Although we do not know at present whether the Libyan fighter planes first made the customary international challenges, one of the Mirages made a series of passes over the Breguet-Atlantic, firing warning shots. None of the warning shots hit the French plane.

The Quai d'Orsay is making no official comment on this incident, but it does not seem that the French authorities have made any protest so far.

The Breguet-Atlantic was apparently on a conventional surveillance mission in the eastern Mediterranean. These marine patrol flights are routine but, since the Qafsah affair, they have tended to be more frequent off the Libyan and Tunisian coasts.

Last week these missions consisted notably of obtaining intelligence on the movements of the Soviet fleet in the Gulf of Gabes, where it has traditional mooring grounds in the shallows. U.S. warships were also in the vicinity.

'Mistakenly' Harassed

NC271117 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Paris, March 27 (AFP)--Libya has admitted that two of its air force Mirage-III's should not have gone after a French military plane on Sunday, an authoritative source at the French foreign office said today.

The unarmed Breguet-Atlantic plane was making reconnaissance flight in international airspace off the Libyan coast when the two Mirages reportedly harassed it. No shots were fired and the French pilot was able to return to base.

France immediately protested about the incident, but Libya's admission of a "mistake" was seen here as closing the incident.

Relations between the two countries, soured after violent anti-French demonstrations in Libya over the Qafsah affair, had been improving in recent weeks.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV

LD271620 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the grand al-Fatah revolution, received a cable of congratulations from Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party and chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., on the anniversary of the evacuation of foreign troops from Libya.

IRAN'S KHALKHALI MEETS WITH CONGRESS SECRETARIES

LD261016 Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Close relations between the Islamic revolution of Libya and Iran are the pillars of Islamic unity, Ayatollah Khalkhali, a leader of the Iranian Revolution declared. He said: "This revolution is bound to score a victory against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and to liberate usurped Palestine".

During a meeting Khalkhali held last night with the Secretary of Foreign Liaison Mr Ahmad ash-Shahhati and the secretary for congresses affairs at the general secretariat of the General People's Congress, he pointed out that imperialism and reaction had tried to prevent the meeting of the two great Islamic revolutions in the Jamahiriyah and Iran, in order to delay and hinder the Islamic revival and the unity of the Islamic nation.

It is not with arms that the Iranian masses succeeded in their revolution, he said, but with faith, unity and determination. Ayatollah Khalkhali strongly denounced the Egyptian president, who, he said, had become a hireling of Zionism and American imperialism, executing their wishes and imperialist schemes.

Ayatollah Khalkhali and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed by Mr Ahmad ash-Shahhati who asserted the strategic alliance uniting the Islamic revolutions in Iran and the Jamahiriyah and their role for the victory of Islam, and the Muslims and helpless people in all parts of the world, and for final emancipation from all forms of imperialism, exploitation and oppression.

Mr Bulkheir explained to Ayatollah Khalkhali the direct people's democracy practised by the Libyan Arab people who, after the proclamation of the Jamahiriyah and the people's authority, have become masters, making their own decisions and holding authority, wealth and arms.

Mr Bulkheir also briefed his guest about the transformation taking place in the Jamahiriyah, thanks to the humane concepts provided in the three parts of the Green Book.

SIX FRG GEOLOGISTS DETAINED NEAR EGYPTIAN BORDER

NC271608 Cairo DPA in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--DPA learned today from FRG sources that six West German geologists were arrested at the border triangle among Egypt, Sudan and Libya 3 weeks ago and that Libya is still detaining them. These sources said that the geologists, who are from West Berlin Free University, were doing research that could raise enormous political furor, in cooperation with the German research society and the Egyptian scientific research academy.

The geologists had been in the area since early March and were provided with tents and two cars. The group included an Egyptian driver and a mechanic as well as a Sudanese geologist.

On 3 March the group camped on the Sudanese border. Some of them made a trip that was said to have taken them to Libyan territory, where Libyan soldiers captured them. It was reported that an Egyptian was killed in the incident. These sources said that the Libyan authorities promised to release the detainees shortly when it is confirmed that they are not spies.

The FRG Embassy here and the academic service exchange office said that they had no information on the activities of the research group on the border triangle. Reports are conflicting about what the Germans were doing.

Certain reports say that they were doing topographic research while others said they were prospecting for water resources; still others said they were searching for uranium and tantalum. The Cairo press so far has not reported the incident despite its great interest in any events related to Libya. The names of those who participated in the operation have not been disclosed.

JALLUD OPENS FIFTH CONFERENCE AGAINST OIL MONOPOLIES

LD271556 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud yesterday inaugurated, at the People's Hall in Tripoli, the fifth conference against oil monopolies which is supervised by the Union of Petroleum, Petrochemicals and Metallurgy in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Staff Major Jallud started by welcoming the members of the conference in the Jamahiriyah. He said: "The holding of this conference in Libya indicates the appreciation of the forces of progress and virtue which struggle and fight in order to establish their identity. For the Libyan Arab people, it is a token of appreciation and esteem from your peoples to ours." He went on to say that this meeting will entrust the Libyans, men and women, with a great responsibility which will make them more determined to confront and fight the capitalist monopolies.

"The Libyan Arab people, which led the revolution of oil producing countries and of the possessors of resources, are proud to see this conference against the monopolies held on their land, an honour which gives them great moral and political support."

Staff Major Jallud pointed out that the Libyan Arab people, after triggering off their great revolution in 1969, have realized that monopolies are the most dangerous bases. Consequently, and while struggling in order to expel the British and American bases, they started their action to abolish the monopolistic ones represented by the oil monopolies.

"The Libyan Arab people who are preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the evacuation of the British bases, consider this meeting against monopolies in international encouragement and support which reflects the esteem held for this small people which has achieved great things. We thank the conferees who travelled thousands of miles to stress unity in the struggle against the monopolies and show that political freedom lies in the realization of cultural, economic and social freedom."

He pointed out that the Libyan people's oil revenues were the smallest in the world before the outbreak of the grand al-Fatah revolution. This led this people to struggle against the oil monopolies in 1970, a few months after the outbreak of the revolution. And then, he said, Third World countries, which possess oil and mineral resources did not react to these monopolies.

He said that Libyan people depended very much on oil even to win their bread and it was very likely for them to loose both. But at the end, they accepted the challenge, and demanded the return of the sums robbed by oil companies since 1961. He added that the economists learned about the principle of backdating in settling accounts, through the Libyans and the economic dictionary. The word 'backdating' sounded very strange to the companies which had neither been penalized nor forced to settle accounts for the past ten years since the battle of pricing had started.

Staff Major Jallud went on to say: "Then we were not aiming at a particular price but wanted to correct certain economic concepts. For example, it was the capitalist countries and companies which used to determine the prices of raw material from the Third World countries. So we corrected this concept and these countries are now able to price their materials, not only oil but other resources as well.

In his inaugural speech, Staff Major Jallud said that the Libyan Arab people have also fought a battle to control their oil production. Before the revolution Libya used to export 4,600,000 barrels of oil per day--a figure which shows a usurpation not only of the Libyan wealth, but of that of the world. He pointed out that the Libyan people are using the most up-to-date technology and scientific formulae to control production.

He remarked that the varied battles fought by the Libyan Arab people to control their oil resources by recovering the robbed sums or the so-called arrears of accounts from the companies and preventing them from burning the gas which was to be reinjected in the wells, in addition to the pricing of the oil of Libyan companies and the battles of nationalization which were not easy but necessary to achieve the Libyan's full freedom.

He pointed out that such battles are over neither in Libya nor in the world. More battles are still to come, he said, to eliminate the monopolies of technology and to change Libya from a country possessing and exporting resources to one industrializing them. This battle is the most dangerous, he stressed, because the monopolistic capitalist companies and countries are not likely to accept this change easily.

"We are self-confident and the experiences and victories we scored in previous battles give us faith in our ability to win in these."

Staff Major Jallud pointed out that the peoples of the developing countries are now experiencing a political awakening which will lead them to reinforce their independence and give it its real meaning, explaining that the political independence will remain irrelevant unless supported by the social, economic and cultural independence.

The U.S.A., he said, all the colonialist countries in its satellite and all the monopolies are trying to delay the peoples movement to reinforce and consolidate their freedom. They successfully disguised their attempts so that the real meaning of freedom became a mere form without content. Colonialism and its capitalist monopolies, he added, are intended to limit the independence of peoples to the superficial facade of political independence.

The battle with neo-colonialism, he continued, is one of the most serious and peoples should accept that. He stressed that victory is for the peoples who will win the fight once and for all, the interests of freedom in its real meaning.

Staff Major Jallud added: "The United States said she is living an economic crisis in addition to inflation and deficit in payments, but, we on the other hand, see the U.S. war budget increasing as more sums are allocated for the prompt military intervention and other forces assigned to defend the Gulf."

Then he wondered: "Prompt intervention against who?", and answered by saying "It is against the peoples who might try to take over their own resources by force."

Staff Major Jallud then referred to the false claims of Western countries which attribute their crisis to the oil prices. He described such allegations as untrue and invalid because the huge increase in their military spending and in their budgets to manufacture more means of destruction and killing and form prompt intervention forces of utmost mobility were basically forced to defeat and drive to submission the peoples of the developing countries endeavouring to consolidate their independence.

The peoples who believe in their right to lead free and decent life will not be threatened by these colonialist policies, simply because they are ready to die for their cause.

Staff Major Jallud elaborated that this conference has special importance because it is for peoples, not goverments. Those who travelled thousands of miles to come to the Jamahiriyah are fully aware of its importance because it represents the peoples who suffered from imperialist monopolies concerning the scientific understanding of socialism.

Staff Major Jallud said that it is not very important for the Libyans to control their wealth, earning, the equivalent of their efforts, without depriving each other of their basic needs because this is one stage of many. It is more important to distribute the world's wealth infairness among all men.

He finally referred to the Western countries' attacks against the oil producing countries which are intended to put an end to the peoples' battle against the oil monopolies and to the threat of other countries which possess other mineral resources, to take similar steps to nationalize such monopolies.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER BOUABID HOIDS TALKS WITH PRC DELEGATION

LD272237 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Mrs Chen Muhua, PRC vice premier and minister of economic relations with foreign countries, and the delegation accompanying her continue their visit to our country.

The Chinese minister this afternoon met with prime minister and justice minister, Maata Bouabid. They had talks on bilateral relations in the light of various issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the minister in charge of relations with parliament, Mohammed Haddou Echiguer and the director of general affairs in the cabinet, Kamal (?al-Akhdar).

After that an expanded Moroccan-Chinese meeting was held under the chairmanship of Maata Bouabid and Mrs Chen Muhua. The Chinese delegation included: deputy minister for foreign affairs [name indistinct]; Deputy Minister for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries Che Fei; Assistant Head of West Asian and North African Affairs at the Foreign Ministry Mizeng Cho; and others. On the Moroccan side the meeting was attended by: Minister in Charge of Relations with Parliament Mohamed Haddou Echiguer; Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Abdellatif Ghissassi; Finance Minister Abdelkamel Raghai; Minister of Commerce, Industry and Merchant Marine Azzedine Guessous; Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Abderahmane Baddou; Director General of the Sharifian Phosphate Bureau Karim al-Amrani; and a number of officials.

Prime Minister Maata Bouabid began by welcoming the Chinese delegation and pointed out that this visit is proof of the friendship between the two countries and leaders. He said that relations between Morocco and the PRC are good and have been established for a long time. He noted that the task of the two delegations will be easy as there are no obstacles or differences between the two countries. He also expressed hope for more contacts between the sides in order to create more understanding between the two friendly countries. He said that he is optimistic with regard to the bilateral relations. He praised the Chinese people, whom he described as a strong people not by virtue of numbers alone but also because of their history and culture; the Chinese people are a brave people.

Mrs Chen Muhua then spoke, expressing thanks for the kind words of Prime Minister Bouabid. She also expressed gratitude for the warm welcome she and her delegation received from the Moroccan Government and people. She said that this welcome is proof of the friendly feeling of Morocco toward the PRC Government and people. She extended an invitation on behalf of the Chinese leaders to His Majesty King Hassan II and the prime minister to visit China.

She said that the visit of the Chinese delegation will be an opportunity to exchange views and to know the Moroccan people. In conclusion Mrs Chen Muhua expressed hope that this visit will contribute to the consolidation of links between the two countries and that the two delegations will be successful in their task.

HASSAN HOLDS TALKS IN FRANCE ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

For coverage of the visit of King Hassan II to France, see the France section of the 28 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SUDAN

UMMAH PARTY CHIEF VIEWS USSR ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

ID271037 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabaic 23 Mar 80 p 10 ID

[AL-WATAN exclusive report: "Al-Mahdi Meets the Soviets and Accepts an Invitation to Visit Moscow"]

[Text] Khartoum--A few days ago, a meeting was held in Khartoum between Sudanese leader [of the Ummah Party] As-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the most senior officials of the Soviet Embassy in the Sudanese capital. The meeting turned into a debate, the first ever to take place with Al-Mahdi, who defended his attitude toward communism. In the light of the debate and after contacting the Soviet leadership in Moscow, the Soviet Embassy officials proposed that Al-Mahdi visit Moscow.

Al-Mahdi told AL-WATAN that he presented to the Soviet diplomats his views on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, emphasizing the following points:

1. Intervention by foreign forces, particularly forces of a big power, in any of the Third World states is rejected in principle whatever the justifications offered. The establishment of military bases and military alliances is also rejected.

2. We appreciate the Soviet Union's support for the Arab rights and believe that it is in our pan-Arab interest to maintain this support. We want to use all means of friendly advice and guidance so that the Soviet forces will withdraw from Afghanistan.

3. We recognize that Afghanistan has relations, which no one can deny, with the Soviet Union; that the Soviet markets are the best markets for Afghan products and that the Soviets have real interest in Afghanistan's not being a base that is hostile to them. All these factors can be insured by the establishment of an Afghan government based on the people's will.

4. The Soviet Union's aspiration for the emergence in the Arab and Islamic countries of regimes that derive their political, economic and ideological concepts from the Soviet Union, will always make the Soviet Union compelled to interfere here and there to protect the basic elements of these regimes because the predominant present national tendency in the Arab, Islamic and African world is to have an independent political and economic system.

TUNISIA

COURT SENTENCES 15 TO DEATH FOR QAFSAH AGGRESSION

ID271443 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--The State Security Court today pronounced its verdict in the trial of the perpetrators of the aggression against Qafsah.

Of the accused, 15 were sentenced to death, 2 of them in absentia; 10 to life in labor camps, 5 of them in absentia; 5 were given 20 years, 3 were given 5 years and 2 were given 6 months in labor camps; 2 were given 5 years and 1 was given 2 years in prison and 1 was given a 6-month suspended sentence. The other accused persons were acquitted.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET ADMIRAL NOVIKOV

LD271550 Tunis TAP in English 1447 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, March 27 (TAP)--Admiral Novikov, deputy commander of the Soviet marine, now on a visit to Tunis, was received this morning by Defense Minister Mr Rachid Sfar.

This afternoon, Admiral Novikov is to meet Mr Mohamed Mzali, Tunisian education minister in charge of coordinating governmental action to President Bourguiba.

GAMBIAN PRESIDENT DEPARTS AFTER OFFICIAL TALKS

LD271656 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] Gambian President Jawara left Tunis this afternoon. He said he had important talks with Bourguiba and other Tunisian officials. This will have positive impact on bilateral relations. He paid tribute to Tunisian achievements. He was seen off by Mzali and others.

PRC DELEGATION IN TUNIS FOR COOPERATION TALKS

LD262318 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] At noon today a Tunisian-Chinese working session was held in Government House, Qasbah, presided over by Mohamed Mzali and Chen Muhua. Attending on the Tunisian side were: Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri; National Defense Minister Rachid Sfar; minister-delegate at the prime minister's office, Mhoamed Sayah; Minister of Agriculture Lassad Ben Osman; Minister of Trade Slaheddine Ben Mbarek; Minister of Public Health Dhaoui Hanablia; Minister-Delegate at the Prime Minister's Office in Charge of Planning Mustapha Zaanouni; Secretary General of the Government Moncef Zaafrane; chief of the prime minister's office Hamed Labed; Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Tayeb Sahbani; director general of international cooperation at the foreign ministry, Ahmed Ben Arfa; Tunisian ambassador to Beijing Mohamed el-Memmi; head of the Asian section of the Foreign Ministry Muhammad Lasir; and attache at the prime minister's office Ali Hachani.

Attending on the Chinese side were: (Chen Ying), vice foreign minister; Cheng Fei, vice foreign minister for foreign economic relations; and Chinese ambassador to Tunisia Cui Jian.

The session reviewed the results of the talks between the delegations on the occasion of the visit of Chen Muhua to Tunisia. The two sides expressed their pleasure at the satisfactory results of these talks, which opens the door for the consolidation of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. On this occation the Chinese delegation expressed thanks and gratitude to President Habib Bourguiba, Mme Bourguiba and also the Tunisian Government and people for the hospitality accorded them during their stay in Tunisia.

The vice premier of the state council of the People's Republic of China described her talks with the Tunisian officials as sincere, friendly and fruitful. She expressed satisfaction at the results of her visit to Tunisia, stressing that these results will have positive effect on the development of Tunisian-Chinese relations. She also expressed her happiness at the warm welcome given to her during her stay in Tunisia, especially by President Habib Bourguiba who received her twice. She said: His excellency has shown that special interest which he continually accords to the question of strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and the PRC. The Chinese guest then referred to the affiliation of Tunisia and China to the Third World and to the other aspects of similarity between the Chinese and Tunisian peoples, whether in their struggle for independence or in their battle against backwardness. She also stressed the similarity of both the Tunisian and Chinese viewpoints in the light of her talks in Tunis. She observed that the commendable development in relations between the two countries was the fruit of the efforts of the leaders of the two countries. In this connection she pointed to the regular contacts which have been maintained between Tunis and Beijing on several levels, noting that the contacts resulted in a satisfactory development of the existing cooperation and friendly relations between the two peoples.

Chen Muhua expressed admiration for the results achieved by Tunisia in the industrial, agricultural, cultural and tourist fields under the leadership of President Habib Bourguiba, pointing out that she saw closely these results during her tour of the republic. She added: People's China harbors much sympathy toward Tunisia gives it full support in its struggle to defend its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. She said that she was leaving Tunisia with best impressions of the country and wished the Tunisian people further successes in the task of building and reconstruction under the leadership of President Habib Bourguiba.

Delegation Leaves

LD262319 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Chen Muhua, vice premier of the PRC State Council left Tunis-Charthage airport this evening at the end of her 1-week visit to Tunisia. She was seen off by Mohamed Mzali, minister of national education and minister in charge of coordinating the government's business with the president of the republic; Mrs Mzali; Mohamed Fitouri, foreign affairs minister; Mohamed Sayah, director of the Socialist Destourian Party and minister delegate to the prime minister; Moncef Zaafrane the government's secretary general; and by the ambassadors of the two countries [last few words indistinct].

Remarks Reported

ID271530 Tunis TAP in English 1401 GMT 27 Mar 80 ID

["Pool" item]

[Text] March 27 (TAP)--Mrs Chen Muhua, Chinese vice-premier conferred Wednesday, at the end of her official visit to Tunisia, with Tunisian national education minister in charge of co-ordinating governmental action to President Bourguiba, Mohamed Mzali. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the positive results of their talks which will enable to strengthen friendly ties and co-operation between both countries. In an interview with TUNIS AFRIQUE PRESSE NEWS AGENCY, Mrs Chen Muhua expressed satisfaction at the way she was warmly welcomed during her stay here, namely by President Bourguiba who received her twice.

After emphasizing Tunisia's and China's belonging to the Third World as well as the other cover [as received] independence as well as in their current struggle against under-development, the Chinese vice prime minister stressed the similarity of views which came out of her talks in Tunis making it clear that the favourable evolution of relations between the two states results from their leaders' will.

In addition, Mrs Chen Muhua said she was impressed by the results recorded by Tunisia in the fields of industry, agriculture, culture and tourist trade.

"We sympathize very much with Tunisia and we support this totally country's defence of national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity", Mrs Muhua added. [sentence as received]

Asked about China's position at thelight of the latest events in the Near East, the China vice-premier noted that "the two superpowers' rivalry and Israel's expansionism are the main reason for the complexity of the problem."

"We consider, she pointed out, that is the Arabs' duty to solve their own problem and strengthen their unity in order to recover their territories occupied by Israel and to restore of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. [sentence as received]

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES

TA262108 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 26 Mar 80 TA

[Interview with Prime Minister Menahem Begin by correspondents Elimelekh Ram and Yoram Ronen, moderated by Tuvya Sa'ar in the television studios on 26 March--Live]

[Text] [Sa'ar] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. On the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, we are hosting Prime Minister Menahem Begin in our moqed program. My fellow interviewers are our correspondents Elimelekh Ram and Yoram Ronen.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, next month you will meet with the U.S. President in Washington. Do you think that Mr Carter's defeat in the New York and Connecticut primaries will help you?

[Begin] I am an Israeli citizen. I do not interfere with elections--primaries or final elections--in the United States of America, and I am therefore not even viewing what happened in New York last night from this perspective. This is not my business.

The U.S. citizens--of different views, as the United States is composed--voted the way they did. I am going to the United States at the invitation of President Carter and I will meet him on 15 and 16 April in Washington. I will hear what he has to say. I will reply. When I return home, we may have another chance to talk.

[Sa'ar] When I asked this question, I meant to ask whether you will take advantage of the fact that President Carter had been beaten in the primaries and the reactions made by the candidates following the elections this morning?

[Begin] No, no. I will add nothing, because whatever I say may be interpreted as intervention in internal U.S. affairs. Primaries are a foremost domestic political act [last word in english]. In my opinion, a citizen of another country cannot even assess them. These are primaries in the city [as heard] of New York, and the results are known to all of us. Each one of us has their own judgement, can reach their own conclusions, but not intervene.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, one can assume that in his talks with you, President Carter will ask that the settlement be frozen until 26 May. You rejected this request, presented by Ambassador Linowitz, this week. It is also to be assumed that President Carter would recall that when the Camp David Accords were signed, Israel had agreed to freeze the settlements for 3 months. The question is: Why not this time?

[Begin] First of all, I would like to say that Israel has never agreed to freeze the settlements. It is true that on 17 September, when we signed the Camp David Accords, I made a commitment--agreed upon by the Israeli delegation and on behalf of myself and the Israeli Cabinet--that for 3 months, namely until 17 December 1978, we will not establish new settlements, but will only strengthen the existing settlements. This is not a freeze, and therefore the commitment is long expired and, of course, is no longer effective, and we are making use of our right to settle. This problem of the settlements is nothing new. On this matter I would like to state simply that there are differences of opinion between the United States and us. The first day I say the President of the United States, Mr Carter, in June 1977, he told me that in his opinion, the settlements are legal and it is our absolute right to have Jews settle in Eretz Yisra'el. They constitute no obstacle to peace.

Since then the differences of opinion continue. This is no secret. Against this background, if I am asked--as you expressed it--to freeze the settlements, I will reply: It is our right and duty, it is an inseparable part of our national security and we must settle.

[Ram] The question is, sir: If we agreed not to establish new settlements in 1977--excuse me, following the signing of the Camp David accords--why will we not agree to do so now, for a period of 2 months or less?

[Begin] It is clear. Why do we have to agree to the same thing twice? All right, we agreed--after the signing of the Camp David accords--for a period of 3 months only, for the duration of the negotiations with Egypt on the peace treaty between the two countries, which you mentioned in passing, even though it is doubtless an important event in the life of the nation just as it is important in the life of any nation which experienced wars--and all the more so in the life of our nation--and we wrote explicitly that for the duration of the negotiations with Egypt, for 3 months [we will freeze settlements]. It later transpired that we held negotiations for 6 months, and we fulfilled what we had undertaken, namely for 3 months. Why is it necessary to once again promise to do so? Then we will be asked to do so for the third time, in connection with another event, and then the thing will be endless.

At any rate, if President Carter approaches me on this matter, asking--as you put it--to freeze the settlements, I will have to reply: Mr President, it is our right and our duty to settle in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Ronen] Mr Begin, on Sunday the Cabinet made a famous decision to settle Jews in houses in Hebron. You say that there are serious differences of opinion between ourselves and the United States on the settlement issue. Do you not think that this decision will further aggravate and make poignant these differences of opinion and shadow your talks in Washington? Or did you with to signal the United States and tell it that the settlement activity would proceed even during the negotiations?

[Begin] No, no, no. We had no signalling to anyone in mind. In our decision on the Hebron issue, we simply corrected an aberration--a historical aberration. There was a [Jewish] settlement inside Hebron, which existed for generations, which has been annihilated and destroyed in an awful and cruel pogrom. When the problem was raised before the Cabinet regarding whether Jews can live inside Hebron--in addition to Qiryat Arba'--we could not reply negatively. It is true that there were differences of opinion; this is well known, but the majority decided in the affirmative and the majority will also speak for the minority. These are the rules of democracy. Let no one say: This is merely a small majority. Churchill had once expressed himself saying that in a democracy a majority of even one vote is sufficient, and we had 100 percent more: a majority of 2 votes. This is absolutely sufficient. A majority is a majority, and any majority is a majority.

[Sa'ar] Sir, if the Democratic Movement's appeal of this Cabinet decision is accepted--the appeal at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee--and the committee decides contrary to the Cabinet decision, what will you do?

[Begin] First of all, when we come to that bridge, only then will we start to cross it. I hope the committee will reject the appeal.

[Sa'ar] Mr Prime Minister, I find it hard to believe that you have not given thought to what will happen if the committee indeed accepts the appeal?

[Begin] As I said before, I am hoping that the committee does not accept the appeal. If it does, of course, it is a Knesset committee and its opinion will and must be taken into account. We, of course, will have to give thought to this important issue, but I repeat, there are grounds for hope--as I have learned today--that when the time for the vote comes, there will not be a majority for the appeal. However, I retreat and say that I am not confident of this. I am hoping.

[Ram] Do I understand correctly that if the appeal is accepted, you will appeal to the Knesset plenum?

[Begin] No, you did not understand correctly. I have not said so.

[Ram] Will you not appeal to the Knesset plenum?

[Begin] I have not said this either. When the time comes, we will think what to do.

[Ronen] Still, Mr Prime Minister, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee has said that he will not bring up the appeal for discussion at the committee because he is convinced that at the moment the Cabinet does not have a majority, so, then, do you think that this majority will be found in weeks, or months?

[Begin] Where do you get that information? You can talk about weeks or months--the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee announced that a session will take place tomorrow, but that no vote would be taken. The vote can be taken soon. I do not know then. He did not tell me and therefore no date should be set, but certainly one can not talk about months.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, perhaps we should return to Washington. In the past, it has been known...

[Begin] What happens with the peace treaty we signed?

[Ram] That is really what we would like to discuss on the implementation of the peace treaty, sir.

[Ram] In the past, the practice was that the United States coordinated its moves with Israel. Now it seems--and please correct me if I am wrong--that the wheel has turned and the United States is coordinating its moves with Egypt, not with Israel, against Israel. Do you accept this thesis?

[Begin] No. This is not always so. It also coordinates with and consults us. In these negotiations, there have been occasions where the United States supported the Egyptian positions, and there were also occasions where it expressed support for our position. If I were to compare the instances, I could perhaps say with all frankness that there were many more occasions on which the United States supported the Egyptian stand over ours, but this remains to be seen in the future as well.

We have been told that we are witnessing the weakening of the support of the U.S. Congress recently. Last night we did not see that this is the correct view, as you know.

[Ronen] Last night--do you mean with respect to increasing the aid to Israel?

[Begin] Yes, Congressional support has not weakened.

[Ram] But what is the reason for this change. You have said that the number of times in which there was U.S.-Egyptian coordination supersedes the number of times where there was U.S.-Israeli coordination?

[Begin] I did not say so confidently, but this may be so.

[Ram] Why?

[Begin] Well, this you should, in fact, ask the United States. After all, one should not forget that Egypt was for many years allied with the Soviet Union. The United States wants to win over its ear. There are these instances and there are others. However, I would like to tell you that even these days I have heard statements of support for Israel's positions. I shall provide some examples: The U.S. Vice President has said--and we heard this for the first time from an official spokesman for the U.S. administration--that Jews can live in all of Eretz Yisra'el, as he expressed himself, including the West Bank--or, as we call it, including Judaea and Samaria. When did we hear spokesmen for the United States make such statements? Or, for example, President Carter has said: Jerusalem should remain united and all members of all religious should have free access to their holy sites. This is precisely the situation as it exists today. Jerusalem is one city and there is free access for all members of all religions to these holy sites, as stipulated also in the law, which guarantees this forever. See? So how can one say that the situation has fundamentally changed? Sometimes this is so, and sometimes otherwise. We have had differences of opinion with the United States since the establishment of the state, and we remember much worse periods. I remember one time, when I was a member of the Knesset and member of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, when the United States threatened demanding that the UN Security Council declare sanctions on us, and demanded that we withdraw without peace, without any permanent agreement. Certainly this was a very difficult period. At any rate it was much more difficult than the present situation which is before us and, to a certain extent, also behind us.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, perhaps there is no erosion expressed in decreasing the financial aid to Israel, but the chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, MK Sharir, has recently returned from Washington, and he reports serious erosion even among proclaimed friends of ours, such as Senators Stone and Moynihan, and he attributes the erosion to the settlement policy. He even stated distinctly: As long as the settlement activity continues, it will be very difficult to explain Israel's position...

[Begin] I heard his remarks, and this is not what he said. I remember how he ended his statement: it is necessary to settle, but it is necessary to explain. He was commenting on the information campaign, not against the settlements. I can admit the weakness of our information system.

[Sa'ar] Sir, when you are in the United States, you will also meet with the conference of presidents of major Jewish organizations.

[Begin] There is no doubt about it.

[Sa'ar] There is no doubt about it. Will you, too, urge the Jews to come out and demonstrate?

[Begin] I do not think I will have to do so. If you are referring to the statements of my friend, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, he did not urge the Jews to come out and demonstrate.

[Sa'ar] He said this was what he expected them to do.

[Begin] One moment, he did not urge them. He expressed his personal opinion, and this is how we heard the statements. There were Jews who made negative comments regarding this statement, and there were Jews in the United States of America who were satisfied. As usual, there are varying views.

[Sa'ar] And what is your opinion, sir about these statements?

[Begin] My reaction is that Minister Ari'el Sharon was in the United States and voiced his expressions. These are the facts that are past, and there is nothing to comment on.

[Ronen] Have you held a meeting with Minister Sharon to explain these expressions?

[Begin] Not necessary, either before or afterwards.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, let's talk about peace.

[Begin] A very good idea.

[Ram] Is there a linkage between the nature of peace and the negotiations on the autonomy?

[Begin] No. There is no interdependency [hatnaya]. I do not know of this foreign term "linkage" [last word in English] but I am speaking in Hebrew. I wish to say that there was a lengthy discussion on this matter and it was determined that there would be no interdependence. By the way, I wish to say that we certainly wish to honor the second part of the Camp David agreement. After all the autonomy idea is ours. I think that it is a good Jewish and Zionist idea--to live together in Eretz Yisra'el, to live in peace and mutual understanding, without attacks and bloodshed. This is the basis of the idea--security to remain in our hands. We want to honor this. We are asked, can you reach agreement by 26 May? Yes, if we are all faithful to the provisions of the Camp David agreements. I know of proposals which deviate from the Camp David agreements. These cannot be accepted. But, let us imagine that we do not finish by 26 May, so what, will the heavens cave in on us, or will something happen in Egypt or the United States. Nothing. We have to continue the negotiations.

[Ram] However, if there is no interdependence, how can you explain the isolation of Ambassador Ben-Elisar and the hostile remarks in the Egyptian press? Even President as-Sadat accused you of violating the Camp David agreements.

[Begin] He did not accuse me of violations. He said that if agreement is not reached by 26 May, he views this as a violation of the Camp David agreements. With all due respect, there is a mistake here. The Camp David agreements did not provide for any date. The date was determined in the joint letter from President as-Sadat and myself to President Carter. A target date was proposed to us. It is untrue to say that there is a target date in the letter. How is the target date manifest? It was proposed that we write that the negotiations to establish the autonomy for the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza be concluded no later than in a year's time. We did not accept this. This is because we knew that it was possible that we might meet the date and we might not. We also did not want the organization of murderers [PLO] to hear of such a date. You know to whom I am referring. This view of ours was endorsed. Therefore, it was determined in that joint letter from the Egyptian president and myself to President Carter that Egypt and Israel will conduct the negotiations with the aim of arriving at an agreement within a year--that is 26 May--from the date of the beginning of the negotiations for the establishment of the autonomy. Further on it was said that, when we reach agreement, it should be implemented as expeditiously as possible [last four words in English], as it is written in the original.

Therefore, there is no target date and there is no final date. There is an aim. I hope that it is still possible to achieve this. If not, we have to continue the negotiations until we reach agreement.

[Ram] Are you happy with the attitude shown by the Egyptians to our ambassador there? Today, in one of the papers a secret document was published, signed by Butrus Ghali and by General Majdub which explicitly says that the process of normalization should be held back.

[Begin] I do not want to speak about individuals. I do not know what the document is. I do not know whether it is authentic or not. It is not for us to base ourselves on such reports. However, in recent days, the Egyptian press has been attacking me personally. That is to say, it is repeating its attacks. There have been such attacks in the past--very serious--prior to the signing of the peace treaty. Despite this, however, we signed the peace treaty. One should not be overly sensitive. Both President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Khalil have said that in order to express good will toward the Israeli ambassador they will personally invite him. I received a telegram to the effect that President as-Sadat has invited our ambassador, Dr Ben-Elisar, to his village and I am sure that Prime Minister Dr Khalil will invite him.

In Egypt there are differing views. One cannot ignore this fact. We were in a state of war for 31 years. Why should we be surprised? However, it is fact that there is an Israeli ambassador in Egypt and an Egyptian ambassador in Israel.

[Ronen] There have been recent reports about contacts between President as-Sadat and Israeli opposition leader Shim'on Peres. According to these reports President as-Sadat hopes that King Husayn will be able to join the peace process if the Alinement comes to power. How do you view these reports?

[Begin] I have not read the letter that President as-Sadat sent to Mr Peres. I do not know what is written therein. Again, one should not base oneself on newspaper reports. We all know. [sentence as heard] I will not intervene in this. It is not my business. They have personal correspondence. Let them write to each other. I do not want to believe that President as-Sadat wrote a letter containing such open intervention in Israel's domestic affairs. After all, it is not he who will elect the Israeli Government but our people, the citizens of Israel, who will elect it. I cannot conceive that this is the case. However, I do not wish to say that the report is untrue just as I won't say that it is true because I simply do not know. However, it is not the right path to follow, to ask me for a reaction on the basis of a newspaper report.

[Ronen] However, do you welcome the very fact that there are contacts between Peres and as-Sadat?

[Begin] I have no opposition to the fact that President as-Sadat meets with the leader of the Israeli opposition party. I have never expressed any opposition to this.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, if we arrive at a deadlock in the autonomy talks, there is a danger that Western European countries will initiate a draft resolution to be submitted to the Security Council--a resolution to replace or add to resolution 242--a resolution to make mention of Palestinian rights to self-determination. Is Israel deployed to meet such a danger?

[Begin] We are also receiving reports on this issue. For example, one report which excels in dubiousness says that the United States is standing behind this whole European initiative. I have checked this out and there is absolutely no foundation to this. Earlier I had presumed that this is foundless. However, after clarifications I can say with conviction that this is not the case. Well, as for the initiative, it is certainly negative.

The French president's statement about self-determination is very serious. Self-determination means a state called Palestine. It is known, let there be no doubt about this. This was proposed to us in Ismailia and we did not accept it. You will find no such reference in the Camp David agreement, autonomy but no self-determination, and this is not by chance. We checked the terminology and we chose autonomy. However, there is an explicit U.S. commitment not to permit a change in resolution 242. We also wrote that all the Camp David agreements are based on this. If it is changed by the Security Council, then the Security Council will be responsible for destroying the foundation. It is written that this resolution together with Resolution 338 are the foundation of the agreement.

[Sa'ar] Mr prime minister, over the past year, have you changed your attitude toward the Palestinian issue?

[Begin] What is there to change? I want a positive solution for the issue of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. The inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and we submitted a very positive solution. By the way, the autonomy idea enabled the signing of the peace treaty between us and Egypt. The idea of territorial compromise--that an Arab leader sign this and that, about the partitioning of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza--has been rejected outright. I have to repeat this both to you and the public. [It was rejected] by King Hysayn, by all Arab leaders. It was the autonomy idea that enabled the signing of the peace treaty between ourselves and Egypt and this is certainly very important. As for a Palestinian state, there is no force in the world which will impose this on us. This is a danger to our very existence. It is known, and even a corridor which might lead to a Palestinian state can serve the same danger. We will not accept this. The idea of a Palestinian state is contradictory to the Camp David agreements. As I said before, we are faithful to the Camp David agreements. I wish to repeat for the benefit of the free world--I assume that they will hear and register this--it is not only a danger to us, it is a danger to you as well. This area would become a Soviet base right in the heart of the Middle East. After Angola, Mozambique, Afghanistan, South Yemen, and Ethiopia, does the free world need another Soviet base right in the middle of the Middle East from which one can progress in each of three continental directions? All in all, it is only a few hours flight from Odessa to Eretz Yisra'el and that same murderous organization praised the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan, terming it aid to a friend. If the Soviet Union were to take control of this part of Eretz Yisra'el, what would stop it from calling for immediate aid. This is a danger to our very existence. There can be no peace under such conditions. There will be permanent bloodshed. Tel Aviv will be in the gunsights. It is within the terrorists' firing range. This would be a second Lebanon but a much more serious version of it. We will not agree to this under any condition.

[Ram] Mr Begin, the heads of the Jewish local councils in Judaea and Samaria have been on a hunger strike for over a week demanding that Israeli law be imposed on their land. When will you do this?

[Begin] I do not think that this is their demand. I understand the concern of the council of leaders, lest another suit be filed with the High Court of Justice which might harm them, following the Elon More judgement. I am dealing with the issue. This is a complex legal matter. The bill has to be worded clearly and we have to take all kinds of legal aspects under consideration. Therefore, this takes time. I have told them, you don't have to demonstrate. Don't do this. I spoke to their hearts but they thought otherwise. Today I am also calling upon them to cease their hunger strike. They do not seek something that is contrary to the views of the government. However, the wording of a bill is very complex and certainly takes time. I am dealing with this.

[Ronen] Another issue that is being dealt with for a long time now is the transfer of your bureau to East Jerusalem. What is delaying this? Is it just a matter of finding a suitable house?

[Begin] Yes, we have been looking for a place and we reached agreement but at the last minute, as happens sometimes, someone probably began to get frightened and the agreement was cancelled.

[Ronen] Was the property owner an Arab?

[Begin] Yes.

[Ram] Are you talking about your bureau or do you intend to transfer the whole of the Prime Minister's Office?

[Begin] No, just my bureau. This was my proposal. I will also require the Cabinet's approval. I hope that the Cabinet approves this, but we are looking for a place. I need an office to work. The idea is still in existence. I hope to realize it.

[Sa'ar] Mr Prime Minister, as is well known, the defense minister is none too satisfied with his membership in the Cabinet. If Minister Weizman resigns, will the Cabinet fall?

[Begin] He is not resigning.

[Sa'ar] If he resigns.

[Begin] If...[laughter] Again, you must always remember that you cross bridges when you come to them. But he said--I have read his statement--that he denied reports in the press, and he said that if he decided one day to submit his resignation, he will first inform me. He has not informed me of his resignation. Therefore he is the defense minister--in my opinion an excellent defense minister--and I hope he will continue in his office. Why should we now make hypothetical assumptions with regard to a possibility that does not exist?

[Sa'ar] I am asking the questions. If we use the simile of the bridge, sometimes, before one crosses a bridge, one plans how to cross it. Say the defense minister tells you that he is resigning. Will the Cabinet fall?

[Begin] Supposing he says--Let's say he does not say so that there will not be an issue. One should not present such a hypothetical question regarding a person's resignation. Let us leave it.

[Ronen] Yesterday, I talked to two or three Knesset members that heard the defense minister express himself rather unequivocally to the effect that he thinks he will leave the Cabinet by the end of May and that he is very unhappy with what is going on in the Cabinet.

[Begin] I have not heard this. I read his statement, and he explicitly said that first of all he would inform me. He has not informed me about his resignation. Usually--and there have already been cases of resignation and yet the Cabinet has not fallen; and I say that this is a usual case, not just with regard to the defense minister--the Cabinet continues to do its job, as long as the majority in the Knesset expresses confidence in it. This Cabinet will continue to serve and fulfill its duty. If there is an absolute majority, according to the law, of at least 61 Knesset members who demand the dissolution of the Knesset before the date stipulated in the basic law--the Knesset and the law itself sets the date for new, early elections--then this will be the case. Everything will be done in accordance with the rules of democracy.

[Ram] "You are jealous of me," this is how you have been quoted in talking to your Cabinet ministers after the session which I believe dealt with the issue of the teachers [and their demands for higher wages]. Mr Prime Minister, should one be jealous of you?

[Begin] Listen, I once had a personal conversation with a high-ranking figure in Israel whose name I cannot disclose. He told me about the prime minister--who is no longer among the living--who expressed himself about himself and the difficulties which he faced with a remark which, if I said it in front of you, everyone would have been shocked. I will not mention it. I have used these words. Sometimes there is a difficult session, and when they emerge from it, they say: Well, are you jealous of me? The session was very lengthy--from 0900 until close to 1600, after which I had work to do. I distinctly said: Well, can anyone be jealous of me? No, No. The job, Mr Ram, I would like to explain to you, is difficult, sometimes even extremely difficult, and this applies to every prime minister--and in a presidential regime also to every president. You can ask anyone who ever filled this job and he will tell you the same thing. There are diaries of prime ministers from other countries [to corroborate this]. Of course, the job is difficult. However, as I said before, as long as you enjoy the confidence of the Parliament, you do it.

[Ronen] It seems to me, Mr Begin, that whenever we interview you we always come back to the issue of the government's functioning--or what you term the malfunctions in the Cabinet.

[Begin] I am wondering when you will return to peace, because this is why you invited me today. However, I have no objection to your asking questions--if I may say so--which do not focus on the problem of peace.

[Sa'ar] Mr Prime Minister, we have talked about this, and we returned....

[Begin--interrupting] Just compare the amount of time you devoted to peace and the time dedicated to other problems, and then you will know. However, I am not complaining.

[Sa'ar] We have only just begun with the other questions.

[Begin] Ask any question you want.

[Ronen] Well, then, let us return to the issue of the malfunctions. If I am not mistaken, this week Education Minister Zvulin Hammer once again initiated a proposal to correct the malfunctions of the Cabinet. Among other things, he proposed what was called during the time of Golda Me'ir a kitchen Cabinet comprising a limited number of ministers. Let us first of all ask: Do you buy this idea, do you approve of it?

[Begin] No, no, no. A kitchen Cabinet like the one that existed--as you put it--during the time of the late Mrs Me'ir will of course not be established. What Mrs. Me'ir--may her soul rest in peace--did was to consult with a number of ministers personally associated with her and members of her party. This was called a kitchen cabinet. We will not do this. If we decide on a group of ministers, I will ask every coalition party and every faction within the party to choose a representative. This will be completely legitimate. If this happens, it will be done for the sake of consultation, not for decision making. However, I had a meeting with eight ministers--not only with Minister Hammer--and it was an excellent meeting. Had you then asked me if one has anything to envy, I would have replied: Yes, after such a meeting there are grounds even for jealousy. It was a meeting which gave me a lot of satisfaction.

[Ronen] Still?

[Begin] Well, I am telling you. All the eight ministers said: We must do our job to the end and then we will go to the people. After all, progress has been made in many fields; exports have increased by 54 percent and imports have decreased--namely, the gap has been reduced. Apartments are being built. The rise of the cost of living index has been curtailed in the last 3 months. We have set up settlements by the dozen in Samaria--which was empty of Jews until 3 years ago. We have done...and I in particular would like to return to this issue; we signed a peace treaty with the largest Arab country. This is a very great event in the history of our nation as well as, of course, in the history of the Egyptian people.

At any rate, they all told me--all of them share this view--that the Cabinet must be maintained until the end of the legal term, and afterward we will go to the people and ask them. Of course, they will decide. There is room for improvement; no leaks, no attacks by one minister against his colleague, no going down [presumably to meet in the Knesset cafeteria] after every Cabinet session, and no individual statements by any one of them--these are things with which I agreed wholeheartedly. They are not secret things. They said they will also talk with other ministers. If all the ministers are unanimous in their opinion, then there is really hope that the situation will be amended. It is a fact that there have been 6 or 7 months during which this was indeed the practice of all.

[Ronen] But since the first 6 or 7 months of the Cabinet's term, many decisions were reached, if I am not mistaken in this spirit, but they have not been lived up to. Do you believe that the Cabinet can live up to these decisions?

[Begin] In some periods yes and in some periods no, but I will not withhold things from you, dear friends. This is not a good situation, one must not leak. It is even unbecoming, in the human sense. By the way, leaks are always distorted, never accurate. But first of all, how can one divulge reports from the Cabinet room--sometimes we deal with crucial matters. Neither should a Cabinet member criticize a decision after it is made. If a decision is made by a majority--even if it is a small majority--it is the decision of the entire Cabinet. This is a great rule in democracy. It happens, and it is indeed bad, I confess. It really must be fixed. If it is not, I will come to you and say: The situation is bad. Yet I am still hoping that we will be able to repair it. This same discussion with those eight Cabinet members was, in this respect, of utmost significance.

[Sa'ar] Mr Prime Minister, you have been heading the Israeli Cabinet for close to 3 years. Have you--for the reasons we enumerated here, such as malfunctioning or some other reason--in the course of those 3 years ever entertained thoughts of going to the president and resigning?

[Begin] No, such thoughts never arose in my mind. I am the prime minister, bearing the responsibility for the entire Cabinet. The law states that the resignation of the prime minister leads to the resignation of the entire Cabinet. So, even though there are these or other problems--some of them serious--the members of the Cabinet have not proposed dissolution. By the way, the law stipulates that the Cabinet can decide to resign. If the members want us to hold early elections, if the Cabinet decides by a majority to resign, then I will go to the president. However, out of a sense of responsibility for the entire Cabinet, I cannot initiate such a move. However, in life anything is possible. Let us, gentlemen, each do his job.

[Ram] Sir, when the peace treaty was signed in Washington exactly a year ago, Deputy Prime Minister--and then Finance Minister--Simha Ehrlich proposed that the elections be brought forward so as to exploit the success. You rejected that idea outright, if I am not mistaken.

[Begin] Yes, that is correct.

[Ram] In retrospect, do you not regret this rejection?

[Begin] No, no. I do not regret it at all. Listen, at the time the pools gave us an absolute majority in the Knesset.

[Ram] Today, the situation is not the same.

[Begin] The thing is that New York provides proof that polls are not always found to be an accurate relection of the vote itself. I maintain that there is one decisive poll, which is the vote at the ballot box. By the way, except for one single poll held before the last elections in 1977--only 2 or 3 days before the elections--all the polls predicted a victory for the Alinement; namely, a certain decline in the number of its representatives in the Knesset, but that the job of forming the cabinet would be in the hands of the Alinement; whereas the Likud would remain in the opposition. These elections, too, showed that this was not so.

At any rate, I am not relying on polls. As to whether they are good or not, the vote itself counts. However, I rejected the idea of early elections for an important reason: a cabinet supported by the Knesset--and the majority that supported the peace treaty included 60 Knesset members, including the opposition; as far as basic political issues are concerned, this is an almost precedented majority, or, in any event, rarely has there been such a majority in our Parliament--and which signs a peace treaty does so for the good of the nation and should not take the opportunity to say: if this is so, vote for us now! I would not say this. I think my friend, and he did not insist on this proposal. Yet I do not regret it. I insist on this principle today, too. Supposing in a year we amend the entire situation--in the economic, social and apartment building sphere, and the like--and the polls indicate that we can get a majority. I will not propose early elections. We did this for the people, not for the party.

[Ronen] Nevertheless, Mr Prime Minister, without referring to polls, currently an atmosphere prevails which is, perhaps, expressed on the one hand by protest movements which are resuming activity; Peace Now is organizing a march along the Jerusalem-Haifa road to demand that the Cabinet resign. Even within the Cabinet, one cannot deny that there are ministers who are pressing for early elections. Are you, as an experienced and polished politician, prepared to participate in a kind of gamble currently taking place among the public with regard to whether or not elections will be brought forward?

[Begin] Mr Ronen, first of all, I am no politician. This is an expression which is below us. It is used in the United States and it has a bad ring to it.

[Ronen] This was not the intention.

[Begin] I am not a politician and, secondly, I am not polished. I am a simple man and there are no Cabinet ministers who are pushing for early elections. I have never heard about such pressure.

As I said before, if most of the ministers desire early elections, there will be no difficulty there. They could tell me, and then I would put the proposal up to a vote. If there is a majority, the Cabinet will resign. Then I will have to--must, according to the law--go to the president. The fact that there are demonstrations...Well, there are demonstrations in a democracy. They demonstrate near the Prime Minister's Office. Here such demonstrations are allowed, whereas in other democratic countries it is forbidden to stand near the Prime Minister's Office--even when a session is in progress--and disturb it with deafening shouts. We have this, too. So they demand that the Cabinet resigned, so what? Did they vote? Supposing there is a 10,000-or 20,000-person demonstration. How much is this as far as Knesset seats are concerned? I think that one seat in the next Knesset elections will require at least 18,000 or 19,000 votes. Supposing 50,000 people demonstrate. This makes 2 and 1/2 seats. So, should one bow one's head before such a demonstration just because it takes place? Demonstrations are part of our democratic life. Sometimes there are nice demonstrations, sometimes there is an element of ugliness in them--this, too, is the way of the world--but the Cabinet will not take such things into account. Peace Now can demonstrate along the entire road leading from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and Haifa and back, and to no avail. The Knesset has confidence in the Cabinet, and the Cabinet will do its job. If there is no confidence, we will go to the people and early elections will be held. Let the members of Peace Now hear me, too. They ought to know this.

[Sa'ar] Mr Prime Minister, in the next elections, if your colleagues ask you, will you once again head the Likud Knesset list?

[Begin] If I receive the confidence of my colleagues--and I hope that before then there will be another Herut convention according to the schedule, although I cannot say so with full confidence--and if I receive their vote of confidence, and if the other Likud factions that are in the coalition ask me to head the list, I will certainly comply. However, I repeat: Even if this is so and we are elected, I have decided that I will withdraw from politics, though not from the Cabinet.

[Sa'ar] When?

[Begin] Have you not heard my statement?

[Ronen] At the age of 70?

[Begin] Right, at 70. I am not very far from there. On the next Sabbath immediately preceding the ninth of Ab [The day of the destruction of the temple] I will be 67. This is a rather old age, and I started to serve the people of Israel at the age of 16--that makes more than 50 years. So, I will not regret any date, even if it is sooner. However, everything depends on my colleagues who have called me. If there is no confidence, I will have no complaints. The colleagues will elect, even if they elect another colleague. This is no monarchy and there are no heirs here. Sometimes reporters like to talk about an inheritance and heirs. In my opinion, this is foolish talk. We are all republicans; The state of Israel is a republic. There are no heirs. Again, according to the rules of democracy, the majority will elect whoever it wants and he will head the list.

[Ram] Mr Begin, to what extent are you aware of the public mood or, shall we say, is your ear attuned to the distress of some of Israel's citizens--their economic distress--which finds expressions in demonstrations, sometimes even in violent demonstrations?

[Begin] Yes, of course, my ear is attuned. Sometimes, when there were price hikes and demonstrations, I understood. There are people very close to me who heard me express my feelings. I was grief-stricken, and I understand that this indeed is distressing and that it should be prevented. I am very glad that precisely before the Passover holiday the finance minister together with other ministers on the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs decided to lower the prices of essential commodities. I think this is good.

[Ronen] And yet, despite the steps of lowering the prices, it seems to me that the Israeli public tends to forget the great achievement of the peace agreement, which you had mentioned--and to which we are returning now, toward the end of the program--and condemns you more for your activity on social and economic issues. Do you think that the people are ungrateful to the Cabinet?

[Begin] God forbid. The people of Israel are not ungrateful. I have personal proof of that. The people of Israel are good people. But if there are difficulties, why is that surprising? I am not complaining. For example, I sympathize with the difficulty of a housewife when there are frequent price rises, and I say so outright. Sometimes this is unavoidable, so what can one do? In this country, for almost a generation, there were subsidies, which cost the country--which, as the finance minister is repeatedly saying, does not have enough money--incredible sums. These subsidies had to be completely abolished--if we could--as should continuing to buy raw material abroad and doing without other needs, and the like. This, of course, resulted in price rises, but there was no alternative. We did not want to do it at once, only gradually. So people express dissatisfacton, too. I accept this with love, not only with understanding. The only thing is that the Cabinet has to think up ways to improve the situation. Well, until the legal date for the elections comes--there are still more than 1 and 1/2 years--there is hope that we will do much to improve the situation.

[Sa'ar] Mr Prime Minister, we began with the anniversary of the peace treaty, your upcoming visit to Washington, and ended with the subsidies. I thank you very much for having come to the Moqed studios tonight, and I also thank my fellow interviewers, Elimelekh Ram and Yoram Ronen. And to you at home, too, good evening and all the best.

[Begin] I would like to thank you a few days before the holiday, the feast of freedom, and wish you and your families--and all the people of Israel--a happy holiday. Let us hope that happiness prevails among our people.

[Sa'ar] Amen.

[Begin] Amen.
[Sa'ra] Thank you very much.

LINOWITZ ASKS ISRAEL TO 'START TALKING BUSINESS'

TA271610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The U.S. Ambassador to the autonomy talks, Sol Linowitz, has asked Israel to start talking business, as he calls it, to prevent a new European initiative after 26 May. He made it clear that he supports the establishment of a subcommittee which will discuss security affairs and that Egypt has not yet said the last word regarding the powers of the autonomy council.

Our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Linowitz said these things in Alexandria in the course of a discussion behind closed doors he held with the Israeli delegation today. Later, the U.S. ambassador met in a closed session with Burg and with Khalil and a regular plenary session is to begin.

The Alexandria talks will end tonight, and Linowitz will come to Cairo tomorrow to confer with Anwar as-Sadat.

FIGHTING REPORTED IN NORTHEAST IRAN

TA271108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Battles have again broken out between Kurdish rebels and government forces in the township of (Katalan) in the northeast of Iran. The Kurdish spokesmen claim that yesterday about 20 of their personnel were killed when the army surrounded the township. They said the trcops fired at the township and also killed several people with axe blows. In contrast to this, the governor of the Azerbaijan District said that the incident began when army units were holding routine exercises in the area.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN MEETS U.S. AIR FORCE GENERAL

TA271838 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1827 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, 27 Mar--In his Tel Aviv office today, Defense Minister Mr 'Ezer Weizman met the commander of the U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Command, Gen William L. Creech. The general is the guest of the Israeli Air Force. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mr Samuel Lewis, senior U.S. officers on the guest's entourage and air force officers.

General Creech arrived in Israel after a visit to Egypt. He is touring several regional countries, and will also visit Israeli Air Force bases.

GAZA TERRORISTS, TEL AVIV YOUTH COOPERATE

TA271847 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, 27 Mar--A terrorist squad which has been operating in the Gaza Strip and which has purchased some of its warfare material from Tel Aviv youths has recently been uncovered by the security forces, an ITIM correspondent has learned.

The investigators have arrested several GAZA residents on the suspicion that they belonged to a hostile organization. Several Tel Aviv suspects have also been detained. The Tel Aviv youths are suspected of supplying the Arabs with arms, including grenades and guns.

It has also been learned that an internal terrorist court has tried to execute a person who cooperated with the Gaza security forces by using a gun it had obtained from one of the suspects.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT PLACES ROADBLOCKS ON HEBRON ROAD

TA280910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The military government has placed barriers on the Hebron road to prevent figures coming from outside Hebron from attending the special prayers at the Makhpela Cave protesting the government's intention to settle Jews in the town. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari was told by military government sources that they would not allow the place to change from a religious site into a political stage.

ARAB MAYORS TO TAKE ACTIONS AGAINST CABINET DECISION ON HEBRON

TA271655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria mayors will employ all possible methods to oppose the implementation of the Cabinet decision to settle Jews in the heart of Hebron. This has been announced by the mayors at their meeting in Al-Birah. They expressed support for Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi and rejected the reprimand he got from the military government. They also expressed support for all the decisions and the moves taken by the Hebron municipality and identify with them.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari notes that some of these decisions had already been formulated 2 days ago at a session of the national guidance committee. The mayors initially wanted to meet in Hebron, but since the military government has blocked the way to it, they held their meeting today in Al-Birah.

Meeting Ends

TA271514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The meeting of the Judaea and Samaria mayors ended an hour ago. It was held in protest of the intention to resettle Jews in Hebron. The mayors met in Al-Birah because the IDF had erected roadblocks on the way to Hebron. This has been reported by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY TO PREVENT LAND DAY INCIDENTS

TA271004 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 80 p 8 TA

[By Orli Azulay]

[Text] The police force has begun to organize for Land Day, this coming Sunday, in view of reports about ferment in the triangle villages.

Policemen are already patrolling the villages and, according to the plan, the police force will be in a high state of alert by Saturday night.

The council heads in the triangle villages have, it is true, called on the inhabitants to keep the peace and not be dragged into violence, but preachers coming to the villages from Judaea and Samaria are inciting the inhabitants. The inciters' intention is to encourage violent action, the barricading of roads and the prevention of workers from going to work.

There has been a religious revival over the last few months in the triangle villages. Each Friday the mosques are filled with dozens of young people who come to hear religious sermons. The preachers, most of them inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria, take advantage of the pulpit to make nationalist rebukes.

Following the Hebron affair and the meeting of the council members--where calls for the destruction of Israel were heard--extremist groups in the triangle villages have decided to join in the fight and take advantage of Land Day for this purpose. Police intelligence reports say that it is the extremist groups who will set the tone on Land Day.

One of the members of the Umm el Fahm Council told me: "There is ferment and there is bitterness, and it will be a miracle if there is no bloodshed."

AFGHANISTAN

KARACHI RADIO: MORE SOVIET TROOPS, EQUIPMENT TO QANDAHAR

BK281116 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Afghanistan, more Soviet troops and equipment are reported to have been brought to Qandahar airbase. Fresh troops and equipment were brought in a convoy of about 130 vehicles under the cover of helicopter gunships.

According to reports from the Qandahar area, two Soviet military camps have now been set up at (Torkoral), a hilly area 40 km from Qandahar, on the main Qandahar-Chaman road. A passerby described the Qandahar airbase as like a battlefield, covered with tanks, armored personnel carriers and anti-air and antitank guns.

According to a report from Qandahar, armed persons looted nine shops in the city market. The local administration expressed its inability to provide protection for the shopkeepers. Twenty million Afghanis is reported to have been looted from these shops, four of which belonged to Hindus. The report adds that the law and order situation in the area is very poor.

RIGHTS OBSERVER NOTES USSR USING TOXINS

LD271235 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Mar 80 p 36 LD

[Unattributed report: "International Human Rights Federation Observer Confirms Use of Napalm and Gas by the Soviets"]

[Text] At a press conference in Paris on Wednesday 26 March, Mike Barry, International Human Rights Federation envoy to the Pakistani-Afghan border, confirmed the large-scale use by the Soviets of napalm and gas in the areas of Afghanistan affected by the war. Mr Barry, who stayed in the Peshawar region from 24 February through 20 March and was able to reach Chitral on the Afghan border, reported evidence given by refugees which he gathered in the Pashto and Persian languages.

According to Mike Barry the Soviet Army is using three types of gas. The first is a type of highly concentrated tear gas which causes headaches and vomiting and which apparently asphyxiated 13 people in (?Shin Kowrok) village Konar Province on 29 February. The second type is apparently a laughing gas which initially causes uncontrollable laughter and then fainting. These two gases appear in the form of grayish clouds. The third type is an irritant gas. It is dropped from helicopters like boiling water and causes pustules on the skin.

According to Mr Barry's evidence the population has been traumatized by the use of napalm, the bombing of whole villages being caught in battles involving armored helicopters and by the massacres (people have apparently been buried alive); columns of fugitives have been fired on and the refugees think that women and children are being deported to the USSR by helicopters. Mr Barry interviewed refugees from Kabul. They saw trucks coming from Hazarajat Province transporting women and children to the airport. He also met former prisoners who heard (Sayyed Abdullah), the commandant of Pol-e Charkhi Prison, say in front of them: "The regime's intention is to leave only 1 million Afghans alive; that is enough to build socialism. The others are infected with old ideas, especially if they are more than 7 years old."

REBELS REPORT MUTINIES AT KABUL GARRISON

OW271802 Hong Kong AFP in English 1756 GMT 27 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Peshawar, March 27 (AFP)--Two further reported mutinies have broken out recently in the Kabul garrison, the Afghan rebel organisation Hezb-e Eslami announced here today.

Last Monday, according to Hezb-e Eslami, soldiers rehearsing the military parade to mark the second anniversary of the April 1978 revolution rebelled when they saw the parade ground decorated with a portrait of Soviet chief Leonid Brezhnev and clashed with "communist" officers and Soviet advisors. The number of casualties was not known. Hezb-e Eslami said that mutineers fled to a nearby mountain and joined the rebels.

On March 20, the group said, an Afghan Army captain in Hussain Kot, north of Kabul, killed a political commissar attached to his unit, a "communist" civilian, and a number of Soviet officers and men before fleeing with his company and weapons to join the rebellion in the Shakardara sector.

At least three mutinies are reported to have been put down in the four-division Kabul garrison since the revolution.

PROTESTS INTENSIFYING AGAINST KABUL REGIME

BK271745 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that more and more people are resorting to rooftop protests to express their resentment against the Kabul regime and the presence of foreign troops in their country. The people are boldly criticizing the Kabul regime. Recitation of azan [call for prayer] and the chanting of nara takbir [slogan of Allah akbar] from rooftops every night continue in Qandahar and Herat cities and it is spreading to the adjoining villages. A prolonged strike has also been reported from Herat. This spontaneous expression of resentment has made the local administration helpless in stopping the people from this protest. The administration is now resorting to indirect methods [as heard] to deal with the situation. About 10 persons engaged in reciting azan and nara takbir are reported to have been killed at the behest of the administration. Shots from automatic weapons are heard every night presumably to frighten people engaged in rooftop protest.

A report from Qandahar adds the freedom fighters have again become active on highways especially in the Ghazni Province. A number of convoys came under attack in the Ghazni area. Freedom fighters are reported to have foiled an attempt by a brigade of troops to gain authority over (deraj wulatkali) in Oruzgan Province. The mojahedin put up stiff resistance; the troops retreated to Tarin Kowt, the provincial capital. As a result of an ambush, a number of troops were killed and a tank was set on fire.

AMERICAN ROBERT LEE APPEARS ON KABUL TV

BK271001 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Mar (AFP)--Robert Lee, an American arrested during the Kabul riots in February and accused of being a CIA agent, was seen on Afghan television last night "confessing" to American crimes, an informed source said from the Afghan capital today.

The impression of Western viewers in Kabul was that he was expressing himself painfully, at times in a weak voice, and was apparently reciting a lesson learned with help, the source added. But he did not appear to have specifically confessed to being a CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) member, though he said he was "ashamed" of Western activities, the source said.

Among his "confessions" was one that so-called struggles between the Soviet-backed Kabul government and rebel tribes in Afghanistan were mere inventions and lies by the imperialist press.

American officials said earlier this year Mr Lee was a globetrotter trying before his arrest to obtain a job as English teacher at Kabul University, in order to remain in Afghanistan.

His "confession" was the second seen on Afghan television, following that of Zia'ddin, an Egyptian living in Saudi Arabia who was said to have been arrested in the Afghan province of Konarha.

He did not seem to have admitted during his "confession" a charge of being a military advisor.

Afghan authorities yesterday announced the release of another imprisoned American, Charles Brockunier [as received], a carpet dealer.

According to the informed source in Kabul, Mr Lee said last night that reports of the use of gas by Soviet troops in Afghanistan were part of a slander and denigration campaign. He added that he was now convinced the mercenaries and bandits who had infiltrated into Afghanistan to commit murder, pillage and sabotage were armed and trained by the United States, Britain and China. "I am ashamed of being an American citizen," he added. American leaders were responsible through Zionist organisations for the murder of thousands of women and children in Lebanon, he said.

The Afghan people, united behind their government, should rise up against the forces of imperialism as they did at the end of the last century against British imperialism, Mr Lee said.

Mr Lee was interviewed in the presence of Mahmood Baryali, a member of the Afghan communist party Central Committee and close relative of head of state Babrak Karmal, the the source in Kabul said.

Afghan radio also announced that Chinese "agents" arrested with 16 Pakistanis and accused of training rebels would appear on television, but they have not yet been seen, the source added.

KARMAL REPORTEDLY SOLICITS PLO MEDIATION WITH IRAN

JN271054 Doha QNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 March--The Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR today reports that Afghan President Babrak Karmal has expressed a wish for the PLO to mediate between his government and the Iranian revolutionary government. In a report from Moscow citing Arab diplomatic sources, the paper says that the Afghan president conveyed this wish to PLO representative in Moscow Muhammad Ash-Sha'ir during their first meeting when Ash-Sha'ir visited Kabul last week.

The paper points out that the discussion at the meeting between Karmal and Ash-Sha'ir also dealt with the nature of relations between the PLO and the Afghan Government, in light of current developments in the area.

Citing the same sources, the paper reports that Karmal informed the Palestinian official that the Afghan Government hopes that the PLO leadership would play a role in improving Iranian-Afghan relations, in view of the fact that the PLO enjoys an esteemed status with Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni and other Iranian officials. The same sources point out that the Afghan leadership understands the PLO's position on the situation in Southeast Asia, because it is aware of the Arab circumstances in which the PLO moves.

As-Safir adds that the meeting between the Afghan president and the PLO representative was most likely held within the context of the visit that a factfinding committee, which includes the PLO, made to the Afghan capital in order to familiarize itself with the circumstances that led to the entry of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. The paper says that this committee was formed following a decision by the International Democrats Society. The committee includes Algeria, the PLO, Austria, Finland, France, India, Belgium, and the FRG. The paper points out that this committee met with the Afghan president and raised the possibility of mediation between his country and Pakistan. The paper says that Afghan President Babrak Karmal responded to this offer. Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, however, categorically rejected the idea of a dialog with Karmal because, according to some sources, "He was not elected by the people and no dialog will be held with him prior to the Soviet forces' withdrawal."

KESHTMAND LEADS DELEGATION ON VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

For coverage of the visit to Czechoslovakia of a delegation led by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council and government, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 28 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE ON TRADE TALKS WITH SOVIETS

The following correction applies to the article entitled, "Results of Trade Talks With Soviets Reported," published in the 10 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, page S 5:

Fifth paragraph, line two should read: ... Accordingly, the value of Afghan natural....

INDIA

PLO LEADER YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES 28 MAR

'Red Carpet' Welcome

BK270638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A red carpet welcome was accorded to chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasir 'Arafat on his arrival in New Delhi this morning on a 2-day visit. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, External Affairs Minister Mr Narasimha Rao and heads of several Arab and nonalined diplomatic missions were among those who received Mr 'Arafat at the airport.

Speaking to newsmen later Mr 'Arafat said that relations between India, the Palestinians and the Arab nations are very old and deep-rooted. He said that he cannot forget Mahatma Gandhi whom he described as one of the greatest leaders of the world.

Arrival Statement

BK280911 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0831 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] An enthusiastic and warm welcome was accorded to chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, Yasir 'Arafat, when he arrived in New Delhi on March 28 on his first visit to India, reports UNI. He was received at Delhi airport by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, External Affairs Minister R.V. Narasimha Rao, defence services chiefs, senior officials and diplomatic representatives.

'Arafat told newsmen that "the PLO and the Arab nations and India had one civilisation, one present and one future. I cannot forget when I am here that I have to remember, besides our strong links, Mahatma Gandhi as on of the greatest leaders in the world and also of the Arab nations. We have also to remember Jawaharlal Nehru, who established the nonaligned movement and now Mrs Indira Gandhi as one of the closest and nearest friends of the Arab nations and of the Palestinian people. We have to remember that relations between India and the Palestinians and the Arab nations are very old and deep-rooted in our combined history."

Treated as Head of Government

BK271623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] During his stay he will call on President Sanjiva Reddy and meet Mrs Gandhi. The prime minister will host a dinner in honor of Mr 'Arafat tomorrow. The president is hosting a lunch for him on Saturday [29 March].

Mr 'Arafat is being treated as a head of government in view of the full diplomatic recognition extended by India to the PLO. This is Mr 'Arafat's first visit to this country. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Government of India look forward to the visit to the exchange of views that Mr 'Arafat will have with Indian leaders.

FOREIGN MINISTER HOSTS BANQUET FOR RAMPHAL

OW271826 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 27 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP)--Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao tonight praised Shridath Surendranath Ramphal, visiting secretary general of Commonwealth Secretariat, for the part he played in the transition of Zimbabwe from "illegal racist" rule to independence and democracy.

Speaking at a dinner he hosted in honour of Mr. Ramphal, Mr. Rao, however, said: "This does not mean that the work of the Commonwealth in Africa is over. Not until apartheid is banished from South Africa and Namibia, freed from its hold, can we afford to rest contented".

Mr Rao also referred to India's interest in pursuing Commonwealth cooperation "in our own Asian-Pacific region" and the forthcoming second regional meeting of Commonwealth heads of governments here in September. "We hope to discuss at this meeting problems of concern to us all and devise practical means to tackly them effectively", the minister said.

Mr. Rao hoped the secretary general's experience and knowledge of Commonwealth countries would be available to India in his preparations for the meeting.

Rao Toast to Secretary General

BK280935 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0835 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao held a dinner in honour of Shridath Surendranath Ramphal, secretary general of the Commonwealth Secretariat in New Delhi on March 27. Proposing a toast, Rao said:

Secretary general, friends: It is a great pleasure for me to welcome in our midst Secretary General of Commonwealth Doctor Ramphal. We have had the privilege on having him with us on earlier occasions. We could perhaps even lay some claim to him as one of our very own by virtue of his Indian ancestry.

Secretary general, your visit provides us with an opportunity to reaffirm India's cherished ties with the Commonwealth of Nations. Under your stewardship of the Secretariat with continued expansion and deepening of cooperation among the Commonwealth countries, the Commonwealth had emerged as one of the more useful and relevant groupings of nation states in this century.

You have come here soon after the people of Zimbabwe have elected a government of their own free choice. The part you have played in the transition of Zimbabwe from illegal, racist rule to independence and democracy merits commendation. You have thus participated directly in one of the most significant triumphs of the movement for decolonisation, an event which matches in its historical importance, the inaugural triumph of this process in 1947; namely the birth of independent India. This does not mean, however, that the work of Commonwealth in Africa is over. Not until apartheid is banished from South Africa and Namibia freed from its hold can we afford to rest contented.

Secretary general, you are aware of India's interest in pursuing Commonwealth cooperation in our own Asian-Pacific region. The second regional meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government is to take place in New Delhi in September this year. Your vast experience and knowledge of the Commonwealth countries will be invaluable to us in our preparations. We hope to discuss at this meeting problems of concern to us all and devise practical means to tackle them effectively. We value the enthusiastic support lent by you and your Secretariat.

The very recently report of the Brandt commission has been published. Your association with this commission is not only a tribute to your stature in the international community but also a recognition of the role of the Commonwealth in bridging a great divide between the North and South. The recent UNIDO conference which India hosted tellingly brought home to us the need for and counsel to reconcile the nations and communities so deeply divided on the fundamental questions which impinge upon the very survival of mankind. We hope that your own sense of justice, liberality of outlook and your dynamism will help to reverse the retrograde trends in the management of global economy.

Secretary general, our government has been at the helm of affairs for a very short while. Our attempts at resolving the serious problems within our own country and at fulfilling our promises to the people are bedevilled by a situation of crisis proportions at our very door. We have been impressing upon all concerned the need for restraint, for defusing of tensions, for avoidance of a short-sighted recourse to arms.

Stability and peace can only be attained through level-headed negotiations. It is our belief that the Commonwealth, even though it is a community of diverse nations, can bring about an atmosphere conducive to the lessening of tensions and peaceful pursuit of programmes for development and welfare of the peoples of the region.

Friends, may I now request you all to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of Doctor Ramphal and his distinguished colleagues.

RAO TOAST TO BULGARIA'S MLADENOV AT 26 MAR DINNER

BK271505 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1431 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

["Text of foreign minister's speech"--ISI headline]

[Text] Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao held a dinner in honour of his excellency Petur Mladenov, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in New Delhi on March 26.

Proposing the toast, Narasimha Rao said:

Your excellency foreign minister, Madame Mladenova, excellencies and friends: It gives me great pleasure to welcome your excellencies to India. Your visit offers a welcome opportunity for an exchange of views on the development of our bilateral relations and other subjects of mutual interest. Your visit is an important landmark in the development of India-Bulgarian friendship and many-sided cooperation.

I was happy to observe in our discussions that our two countries share a common faith in the cause of world peace and human progress, convinced as we are that the all-round development of our two peoples can best take place in a peaceful environment. I am also happy to say that over last several years our two countries have worked together in various international forums towards this goal.

We have also taken note of your country's role in the evolution on detente in Europe. It is our belief that in order to be meaningful and durable detente must not remain limited to a few countries or to a continent but must be extended to other regions (?excellency) [words indistinct] We have watched with interest efforts made by your government to rebuild your national economy. We in India, too, have reaffirmed our commitment to improving the living standards of our people. Although we have made much economic progress in the 32 years since independence we are acutely aware of how much more needs to be done. Our government, which assumed office recently, is fully committed to revitalising the economy and giving our people economic progress, coupled with social justice. We are confident that we shall receive willing cooperation from all sections of our society.

At the same time, we are also conscious that in order to achieve our socioeconomic objectives we require, above all, a peaceful international environment. On our part, we have consistently pursued a policy of peace and friendship with other countries, irrespective of differences in socioeconomic or political systems. We are, therefore, concerned at a new area of tension in southwest Asia.

Excellency, I do not propose to dwell at length on the developments that have taken place in our neighbourhood in recent months. The fact remains that in a region which is so vital to our security new tensions have arisen. This is a development that cannot contribute to a peaceful environment.

We are convinced that outstanding issues between two countries can be resolved on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence. Fortunately, all countries in the region on southwest Asia are members of the nonaligned movement and have reaffirmed time and again their commitment to its objectives. That is why they should find it advantageous to seek solutions to their outstanding problems in their adherence to the principles of nonalignment which are firmly rooted in the philosophy of peaceful coexistence and sovereign equality among nations.

We, on our part, must reaffirm our conviction that if world peace is to be preserved countries must resolve their bilateral problems through peaceful means and without recourse to use or even the threat of use of force.

Excellency, fortunately for us we have no problems in our bilateral relations. After our discussions I am confident that, in fact, the prospects for further India-Bulgarian economic and technical cooperation are indeed very bright and would be explored further in the forthcoming sessions of the joint commission.

Although your stay in our country is very short I am sure that your excellencies will enjoy your visit to the beautiful city of Agra and get a glimpse of the historical traditions and the great cultural heritage of our people.

Friends, may I now request you to join me in a toast to his excellency the foreign minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Petur Mladenov; her excellency Madame Mladenova and to the distinguished members of the Bulgarian delegation.

Talks With Commerce Minister

BK270909 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0839 GMT 29 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Bulgaria proposes to send a business mission to India to identify areas for increasing trade and joint collaboration projects between the two countries. This is likely to be followed by a high level delegation of Politburo members dealing with economic subjects to concretise the projects. This was suggested by visiting Bulgarian foreign minister, Petur Mladenov, during his meeting with union minister of commerce and civil supplies, Pranab Mukherjee, in New Delhi on March 26.

Mukherjee welcomed the proposal and pointed out that India was keen to increase and diversify trade relations with Bulgaria. The two ministers agreed that concrete areas would be identified where trade could be increased and joint collaboration projects launched.

The Bulgarian minister pointed out that since both countries had planned economies the possibilities of long-term economic collaborations should be probed. He expressed keen interest in having production collaboration and joint venture with India, especially in the area of road transport.

RAO REITERATES OPPOSITION TO DIEGO GARCIA BASE

BK281022 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India has expressed grave concern at the recent developments in the Asian region including the Indian Ocean. In a written answer to the upper house of Parliament today, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said that, in accordance with our established policy, we continue to oppose foreign military presence, including bases such as Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean.

Replying to a question, Mr Rao said according to reports the U.S. Defense Department had announced that funds would be sought in the 1981 budget for further development of the harbor, the aircraft parking area and runways and fuel storage facilities in Diego Garcia.

PROTEST LODGED AGAINST THAI-BANGLADESH FISHING AGREEMENT

BK280752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India has protested to the Government of Bangladesh regarding the Bangladesh-Thai fishing agreement. The agreement describes Bangladesh's economic zone as extending up to 200 miles from the base line joining points at a depth of 10 fathoms in the sea.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, External Affairs Minister Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao said there is no justification for this unilateral declaration. He said we have also suggested to the Government of Thailand that they should not carry out fishing operations in any disputed area till such time as the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh has been settled by agreement.

PRIME MINISTER GANDHI ON NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY FROM U.S.

BK271125 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that as long as the cooperation agreement of 1963 subsists, the U.S. Government is obliged to make available the enriched uranium for use as fuel for theTarapore reactor.

In a written answer in the upper house of Parliament today, Mrs Gandhi said India is correspondingly precluded from operating the Tarapore reactor on any other fuel. In the case of stoppage of fuel supplies by the United States, one of the alternatives would be to operate the Tarapore reactor on indigenously fabricated mixed oxide fuel. She said all aspects with respect to the continued operation of the Tarapore atomic power station are under study.

POLITICAL UNREST CONTINUES IN NORTHEAST

Arrest of Assam Demonstrators

BK280321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Indifferent parts of north Bengal yesterday, 396 volunteers of the Chattra Parishad-I [Students Council-Indira Gandhi faction] and the Youth Congress-I were taken into custody for preventing trucks and trains rom going to Assam. Agency messages say that after the police lathi [baton] charge near Bagdogra, participants of the economic blockade movement became violent and set on fire four Assam-bound trucks. Two jeeps were also set on fire, 9 km from Siliguri.

Congress-I members of the West Bengal assembly protested against the ruthless handling of the peaceful agitators and staged a walkout. State Congress-I President Mr Ajit Panja accused the chief minister of engineering of sabotaging the movement. He said that known antisocial elements had been sent to Siliguri.

Speaking about the day's incidents, Chief Minister Mr Jyoti Basu told newsmen in Calcutta that the police resorted to lathi charge and arrested 11 persons. He said all the trucks were allowed to leave for Assam. Mr Basu urged the prime minister to find an immediate solution to the present tangle in Assam. He also said that a delegation of members of Paliament should be sent to Assam.

Chairman of the West Bengal Left Front Mr Promode Das Gupta said in a statement that if the prime minister wills the problem of foreign nations of Assam can be solved within 2 days. Meanwhile the northeast region students union has condemned the economic blockade of Assam by the Chattra Parishad volunteers of West Bengal. Assam Sahitya Sabha General Secretary Mr (Niren Sokhya) has also described the economic blockade as unfortunate.

Parliament Briefed on Mizoram Situation

BK281036 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government reaffirmed in the Lok Sabha today that it has not closed the door on negotiations on the trouble in Mizoram, but adequate security measures have been taken to deal with increasing violence in the union territory. Minister of state for home affairs, Yogendra Makwana, told the house that the talks are being held with the governments of Bangladesh and Burma so that underground Mizos cannot operate from their territories. The matter came up through a calling-attention motion by Mr Vikram Mahajan, Mr Krishnapratap Singh and Mr Janardan Pujari, all Congress-I. Parts of the proceedings were inaudible because of the persistent noise by some opposition members who were complaining that the Vaidyalingam report had been made available to the members only in English and not in Hindi as was required under the rules.

In a statement, Mr Makwana said that the Mizoram government had issued prohibitory orders wherever necessary and combing operations are being undertaken. The strength of the security forces had been adequately augmented to meet the situation and consequently elections could be held in January last without any serious violence. However, violent activities increased since then, resulting in 18 deaths. From about the middle of this month posters have appeared in some parts of Mizoram demanding that non-Mizos should vacate the territory.

STATESMAN on Naga Rebel Movement

BK271155 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 27 Mar (AFP)--The pro-independence Naga rebel movement in eastern India has come under strong Maoist influence with the emergence from underground of Kevitzalezo, son of self-exiled rebel leader A.Z. Phizo, the English daily, STATESMAN, reported today.

The paper said Kevitzalezo, also known as Gou, was seen in public for the first time in 2 years in Kohima, capital of the state, in late February along with five others, including a "lieutenant colonel" of the rebel army, Changcho, Sou and his comrades were said to have been trained in guerrilla warfare in Lhasa, Tibet.

The daily said the group had joined two other top leaders, Muivah Tangkhul and Isak Swu, who had been in control of the civilian setup of the rebel movement. Plastic tags with Maoist inscriptions had begun to circulate in villages, especially near the Burmese border, immediately after the group came out in the open, the report added.

The report also spoke of incidents across the India-Burmese border recently in areas used by the Nagas for training and regrouping.

Quoting "sketchy" reports, the paper said not less than 20 Naga rebel leaders had either been killed or executed in purges by the dominant Maoists, led by Muivah and Isak. The majority of the leaders purged were said to have belonged to the Angami, Khesang and Ao tribes of the Nagas inhabiting the Kachin area of Burma, it added.

Phizo, who lives in London has two other sons directing the rebel movement inside the state while another son, Vilovor, is with him in England.

Meithi Insurgents Accused of Slaying

BK261610 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Mar (AFP)--Unidentified gunmen, suspected of being members of the Meithi insurgent movement in the eastern border state of Manipur, today shot dead a constable of the Central Reserve Police (CRP) and injured another in a surprise attack at Imphal, Manipur's capital. The report said the injured man was in a serious condition in hospital. No arrests have been made. Security measures in Imphal had been tightened up following the incident, the second of its kind in one month.

Meithi Faction Opposes Talks

BK271551 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 27 Mar (AFP)--A more militant faction in the meithi insurgent movement in India's eastern state of Manipur has firmly set itself against a peaceful negotiated settlement of the problem with the government, reports reaching here suggested today.

The reports from Imphal, capital of Manipur, said that the hard core of the insurgency movement had circulated clandestine leaflets, rejecting an agreement reached by a rival faction with the state government recently for negotiations towards a peaceful settlement. They described as "counterrevolutionaries and antipeople" the rivals, led by Tulachandra Singh who, along with four of his associates, was nabbed by security forces late last month from a hideout.

The reports believed that the latest armed attack on the security personnel at Manipur on Wednesday [26 March], killing one and seriously injuring another, was the act of the hard core elements.

The pro-peace group, led by Tulachandra Singh, had called for suspension of the insurgent operations pending the proposed negotiations but this has apparently been ignored by the other. The clandestine leaflets, the reports said, had threatened to shoot down such counterrevolutionaries.

GANDHI GAINS APPROVAL FOR DISSOLVING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES

OW271812 Hong Kong AFP in English 1804 GMT 27 Mar 80 OW

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP)--Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government scored a victory in the opposition dominated upper house of Parliament today by securing its approval to the motion on the dissolution of legislative assemblies of nine constituent states.

After a day-long debate, the house tonight rejected an opposition motion calling for revocation of presidential proclamations, dissolving opposition ruled nine state assemblies by 98 to 120 votes. Till yesterday, Mrs. Gandhi's Congress-I Party had only 98 members in the house against its total effective strength of 235.

The entire opposition walked out after the result of the vote on the opposition motion was announced. The house later passed official resolution seeking its approval of the dissolution. The lower house approved the resolution yesterday.

Under the constitution a proclamation of the president in such matters will have to be approved by the both houses of Parliament within 60 days. The dissolution proclamation was issued on February 17.

LAWYERS BOYCOTT COURTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

BK260343 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, lawyers continued their boycott of the courts in several towns yesterday in protest against the alleged police attack on lawyers in the high court (?bench) premises in Gawalior last Thursday.

Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh high court Mr Justice J.P. Singh held talks in Bhopal yesterday with the representatives of the bar association to sort out differences between the lawyers and the police. The talks were inconclusive.

SOVIET SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

BK271220 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A Soviet delegation on science and technology, led by First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Committee on Science and Technology L.N. Yefremov arrived in New Delhi today. Yefremov will sign a 4-year program of cooperation between the Soviet Union and India in the fields of science and technology tomorrow.

NEPAL

NATIONWIDE BUS, TEACHERS STRIKES CONTINUE

BK261447 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Katmandu, 26 Mar (AFP)--A nationwide bus strike entered its fourth day today amid calls for "severe punishment" for Managis--Tibetan ethnic Nepalese who were allegedly creating social problems in Katmandu. The strike follows a row which broke out after a staffing incident. The local transport union has called on the government "not to let the Manangis go scot free" and forbid them carrying weapons.

Yesterday the Nepal Tansport and Labour Union also sought "appropriate" punishment for the Manangis during a demonstration in which they carried anti-government banners.

Meanwhile, 40,000 school teachers who have also been involved in a strike action have given their backing to the labour and transport unions. The teachers have been on strike in and around the capital for three weeks over a nine-point list of demands which among other things, calls on the government to allow them to constitute the national "all nepal teachers union" and to provide "provident fund and retirement gratuities".

The Education Ministry has called on the teachers to resume classes and the two parties are currently discussing the issue.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO COMMENTS ON KARMAL OVERTURE

BK260958 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Fazal Qureshi commentary]

[Text] In a recent statement broadcast from Radio Kabul, head of the present regime Babrak Karmal has been quoted as talking of seeking better relations with Pakistan. He said: We have deep historical, cultural and Islamic ties with the people of Pakistan. We desire friendly relations with that country. But the way adopted by the rulers of Pakistan is the way of increasing tension in Afghanistan. The security of Pakistan is linked with the strengthening of relations with Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that the statement of the Afghan president would become meaningful only if the Afghan Government followed it with steps to create conditions for better relationship between the two neighboring Islamic countries. The government and the people of Pakistan have always pursued friendly policies toward Afghanistan, with whom they have Islamic, historical and cultural ties of long standing.

The present government of Pakistan is also making every effort to improve relations with Afghanistan in spite of the (?evident) propaganda of Kabul. Over half a million Afghans have taken refuge in Pakistan driven out of their homes by the fighting in Afghanistan. The government of Pakistan is providing shelter, food and medical facilities to them on purely humanitarian grounds and in keeping with the duties and ties of Islamic brotherhood, which binds the peoples of the two countries.

In spite of highly provocative attitude of the present regime in Kabul, Pakistan has continued to provide all possible facilities for the transit trade of Afghanistan. Despite all this, the Kabul regime continues to make baseless allegations and charges against Pakistan, trying to put the whole blame of the turmoil inside Afghanistan on the doorstep of Pakistan. It is time the Afghan rulers came to realize the turmoil in Afghanistan is not caused by external factors or agencies, but is the result of the outright rejection of a foreign ideology by the deeply religious people of Afghanistan.

Instead of bowing to the genuine aspirations of the masses of Afghanistan, the Kabul rulers chose to suppress the people with the help of foreign troops--over 90,000. This step by the Afghan rulers has not only brought disorder and ruination to its own people but has also created problems for Pakistan. But as far as Pakistan is concerned, it will continue to pursue a friendly policy toward Afghanistan in the hope that the Kabul regime will realize the causes of the crisis in Afghanistan, to live in peace, tranquillity and freedom.

In this connection, a number of proposals have been put forward. One of these has come from Britan, which seeks to guarantee the neutrality and independence of Afghanistan by all countries of the region and the superpowers. Another proposal has been made by Iranian President Bani Sadr, who has proposed that an international commission should visit Afghanistan to check on the Soviet and Afghan allegation offoreign interference in the Afghan affair. Bani Sadr has suggested that the members of the commission should be selected from Europe, Algeria, Iran and Latin America. The Soviet Union has, however, rejected this proposal. It is very clear that such a commission would have been welcomed in Afghanistan if there was some truth in the claims of Kabul and Moscow that Soviet troops entered Afghanistan to help fight outside interference.

On the other hand, President Ziaul Haq had himself proposed the sending of an impartial international commission to Pakistan to verify repeated charges of Moscow and Kabul that refugee camps in Pakistan were being used as military training centers for the Afghan rebels. Such a proposal was made by Pakistan as a solid proof of the truth of its stand; it is also an actual fact that large numbers of international delegations and personalities, including the United Nations mission, have been continuously visiting these camps and have not found any evidence for the baseless charges made by Kabul. The fact of the matter is that those who have a closed account have a clear conscience and would not be afraid of any checking at any time.

SPOKESMAN ON REPORTED 'PACKAGE DEAL' FROM INDIA ON AFGHANISTAN

BK271709 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman has said that no indication has been received from India regarding a reported package deal to end the Afghanistan crisis. The reported package deal entails withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, formation of a broad-based government by Babrak Karmal, assurances from the United States and China not to supply arms to Afghan freedom fighters and a guarantee by Pakistan that it would not allow its territory to be used for launching attacks on Afghanistan.

When asked to comment on a news report that India has devised a package deal solution to end the Afghanistan crisis, the Foreign Office spokesman said the only information the Pakistan Government has received is that Sardar Swaran Singh may visit Islamabad as guest of the Indian ambassador. It was not yet clear whether he is to visit as a special envoy of the Indian prime minister to hold talks on accelerating the process of bilateral talks or to discuss the Afghanistan issue.

About such a comprehensive solution, the spokesman said that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is an important condition for a construction move toward the solution of the Afghanistan problem. This was categorically demanded at the United Nations and also at the extraordinary session of Islamabad conference of foreign ministers in January, he added.

As for the question of setting up a broad-based government in Kabul, the spokesman said this should be decided by the people of Afghanistan.

He said that Pakistan will adhere strictly to the relevant resolution of the Islamic foreign ministers conference which suspended Afghanistan's membership in the conference and called on member countries not to have any dealings with the present regime of Kabul until Soviet troops were completely withdrawn from there.

As for supplying arms to Afghan freedom fighters, the spokesman said that so far as Pakistan is concerned, we have repeatedly given our assurance that Pakistani territory will not be allowed to be used for anti-Afghan activities; neither will we allow the use of refugee camps as training centers; nor will we permit arms to be supplied to freedom fighters through Pakistan.

The spokesman said that no package deal to end the Afghanistan crisis would be complete until peace and security in Afghanistan itself were guaranteed, enabling the return of the more than 600,000 Afghan refugees to their homes with a sense of dignity and respect.

The spokesman said that it is not possible in the present circumstances for either Pakistan or Afghanistan to check all movements along the virtually inaccessible 1200 mile-long Pakistan-Afghan border.

The Foreign Office spokesman also rejected the fallacious allegations made against Pakistan at a recently held conference in New Delhi. The spokesman's attention had been drawn to the recently held international conference for peace and security in Asia held in the Indian capital under sponsorship of the World Peace Council. The conference had adopted a resolution calling for an end to open intervention in Afghanistan from Pakistani territory. The spokesman rejected the allegation, describing it as baseless and said it was known that the World Peace Council is a front organization. The spokesman recalled that such allegations had been made against Pakistan earlier by interested quarters and were effectively denied. The spokesman said that these allegations aimed at creating doubts and misunderstanding about the nature of the opposition of patriotic elements to the occupying forces in Afghanistan. The spokesman said that the true character of these allegations has been exposed and repeating them cannot give them any more credibility.

HAQ SPEAKS TO CADETS ON STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DEFENSE

BK271044 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 27 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan is taking all the diplomatic and military steps that are necessary for the defense of the country. The president said this while addressing the passing-out parade of the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul this morning. He said Pakistan was fully aware of the political and military changes that have taken place around it and it had new difficulties from them. However, Pakistan was constantly reviewing the situation dispassionately and by the grace of God the nation and the armed forces are fully prepared to meet any situation.

The president said despite limited resources of the country they were making sincere efforts to meet the defense needs of Pakistan as it was vital for the security of the country and national independence. He said full attention was being given to acquire the necessary arms to strengthen the defense capability of the country. Certain friendly countries, he said, were helping in this connection and through their cooperation they were marching toward defense self-sufficiency in a number of fields.

The president made it clear that acquisition of arms by Pakistan was not directed against any country as they were simply needed for its defense.

The president urged the passing-out cadets to display an exemplary conduct as a good Muslim and true Pakistani. He said the army profession was a mission which provided them with an opportunity to defend the country's ideological and geographical frontiers. He said the government was paying attention to the pay and other facilities of the armed forces which would be improved with increase in the national resources.

Greets Bangladesh National Day

BK270158 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The president has extended cordial and warm felicitations to president Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh on the National Day of that country, celebrated today. In his message, the president expressed the confidence that the close ties of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding already existing between the two countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come in the interest of the two people and the cause of peace and harmony in the region.

U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL VISITS AFGHAN REFUGEE CAMP

BK261131 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 26 Mar 80 BK

[Text] U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights, Miss Patricia Berian, visited and Afghan refugee camp at (Chenglughot) near Peshawar this morning. Talking to refugees she said that the United States is fully aware of the problems of the Afghan refugees and it is finding ways to fulfill obligations in this regard. She said, in fact, that this is a humanitarian issue and is the responsibility of the entire world community. She said that she came to know the difficulties faced by the Afghan refugees better and that on her return to America she would appraise the government of these difficulties.

She praised the efforts made by the Pakistan Government for providing food and other aids to Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds.

Earlier, leaders of the Afghan refugees told her the situation under which they were compelled to leave their home and seek refuge in Pakistan.

FRG Official Visits Refugee Camp

LD261852 Hamburg DPA in German 1705 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Islamabad--Gerhard Schroeder, chairman of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, has promised all possible aid to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Schroeder, who is leading a four-man delegation of the committee on a fact-finding trip in Pakistan, gave this assurance at a refugee camp at Parachinar, near the Afghan border.

EXPRESS: BHUTTO FOLLOWERS FORM GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

BK261431 Delhi Indian Express in English 21 Mar 80 p 6 BK

[By B.K. Tiwari]

[Text] Londin, 20 Mar--Followers of the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and his People's Party will on March 23 announce here the formation ofPakistan governmentOin-exile.

The announcement will be made at a one-day convention here which aims at considering strategy and tactics to force free elections in Pakistan so that the people can choose a representative government. The convention has been organised by Brig Usman Khalid who resigned from the army last September. Before officially resigning Brig Khalid had called a news conference to announce the formation of Pakistan liberation movement. The movement, however, could not get off the ground. On March 23 it will also officially come into being.

A draft charter circulated to the participants says that following the formation of a representative government as a resul' of free and fair elections Islam will be the religion of Pakistan which will follow socialism, allocating due place to private sector.

The charter has expressed concern over the American supply of arms to the military regime of Gen Ziaul Haq and has said that what the country needed was third generation arms. Besides, it said that the terms offered by the Americans were unacceptable.

The charter called on the people of Pakistan not to get too deeply involved in the affairs of Afghanistan and watch the American game carefully. The danger is that a pro-Soviet coup may be launched in Pakistan.

The People's Party has a fairly good number of members in Britain and they have, from time to time, propagated for holding elections in Pakistan. They also opposed Gen Zia's policy and called for his overthrow so that a people's government could be formed.

PAPER DISCUSSES PRC MILITARY DELEGATION'S VISIT

BK271253 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Mar 80 p 7 BK

[Editorial: "A Bond Consolidated"]

[Text] The 6-day visit to Pakistan by a Chinese military team has gone a long way toward reassuring Islamabad of China's support for its "national independence, sovereignty and integrity." Beijing's friendship with Pakistan is of long standing. It has been based on principles and has stood the test of history. Yet, periodic reaffirmation of these ties not only helps to strengthen the bonds between the two countries but also to demonstrate to the world that Sino-Pakistan friendship constitutes a vital factor to be taken into account in the international politics of South Asia. Such reaffirmation of support for Pakistan which Mr Xiao Ke, the vice-minister of defence and leader of the military delegation, expressed during his stay in this country was quite significant from two points of view. In the first place, it underlined the durability of Sino-Pakistan bilateral ties in the changed political and strategic environment of southwest Asia in the post-Afghan crisis period. Secondly, the reaffirmation of this friendship has far-reaching implications for the political equations in the region. Coming from a major power which has unequivocally condemned the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and expressed its support for the Afghan resistance movement in no uncertain terms, China's reiteration of its special ties with Pakistan has its own importance. Not be to be disregarded in the context of international politics of the region is the development of closer Sino-American ties in recent months which has been underlined by Mr Harold Brown's visit to Beijing in January and the talks the Chinese deputy foreign minister has held this week in Washington in which the question of Pakistan's security was discussed.

The visit by a Chinese military goodwill delegation to Islamabad is of added importance because it has taken place at a time when Pakistan's prime concern is to strengthen its defences in the face of the threat the Afghan situation poses to its security. Although the identity of views of the two countries on the developments in Kabul was more than demonstrated during the Chinese foreign minister's visit to Islamabad in January last, the military team's arrival was a tangible evidence of Beijing's sympathy and support for Pakistan. No further proof is required of the mutual trust and confidence that obtains between the two countries than the statement by Mr Agha Shahi a few days back that there was no need for a formal Sino-Pakistan defence pact in view of the fact that Chinese friendship was "fully dependable." As such, even the reaffirmation of the support of the Chinese people and armed forces for Pakistan's independence, sovereignty and integrity, as voiced by Mr Xiao Ke, is sufficient to underline the reality of the everlasing friendship between the two countries.